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2006 年 12 月

Section B

Directions: There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on Answer Sheet 2 with a single line through the centre.

Passage One

Questions 52 to 56 are based on the following passage.

In a purely biological sense, fear begins with the body's system for reacting to things that can harm us - the so-called fight-or-flight response. "An animal that can't detect danger can't stay alive," says Joseph LeDoux. Like animals, humans evolved with an elaborate mechanism for processing information about potential threats. At its core is a cluster of neurons(神经元) deep in the brain known as the amygdale(扁桃核).

LeDoux studies the way animals and humans respond to threats to understand how we form memories of significant events in our lives. The amygdale receives input from many parts of the brain, including regions responsible for retrieving memories. Using this information, the amygdale appraises a situation - I think this charging dog wants to bite me - and triggers a response by radiating nerve signals throughout the body. These signals produce the familiar signs of distress: trembling, perspiration and fast-moving feet, just to name three.

This fear mechanism is critical to the survival of all animals, but no one can say for sure whether beasts other than humans know they're afraid. That is, as LeDoux says, "if you put that system into a brain that has consciousness, then you get the feeling of fear."

Humans, says Edward M. Hallowell, have the ability to call up images of bad things that happened in the past and to anticipate future events. Combine these higher thought processes with our hardwired danger-detection systems, and you get a near-universal human phenomenon: worry.

That's not necessarily a bad thing, says Hallowell. "When used properly, worry is an incredible device," he says. After all, a little healthy worrying is okay if it leads to constructive action - like having a doctor look at that weird spot on your back.

Hallowell insists, though, that there's a right way to worry. "Never do it alone, get the facts and then make a plan." He says. Most of us have survived a recession, so we're familiar with the belt-tightening strategies needed to survive a slump.

Unfortunately, few of us have much experience dealing with the threat of terrorism, so it's been difficult to get fact about how we should respond. That's why Hallowell believes it was okay for people to indulge some extreme worries last fall by asking doctors for Cipro(抗炭疽菌的药物) and buying gas masks.

52. The "so-called fight-or-flight response" (Line 2, Para. 1) refers to "_____".
- A) the biological process in which human beings' sense of self-defense evolves
 - B) the instinctive fear human beings feel when faced with potential danger
 - C) the act of evaluating a dangerous situation and making a quick decision
 - D) the elaborate mechanism in the human brain for retrieving information
53. From the studies conducted by LeDoux we learn that _____.
- A) reactions of humans and animals to dangerous situations are often unpredictable
 - B) memories of significant events enable people to control fear and distress
 - C) people's unpleasant memories are derived from their feeling of fear
 - D) the amygdale plays a vital part in human and animal responses to potential danger
54. From the passage we know that _____.
- A) a little worry will do us good if handled properly
 - B) a little worry will enable us to survive a recession
 - C) fear strengthens the human desire to survive danger
 - D) fear helps people to anticipate certain future events
55. Which of the following is the best way to deal with your worries according to Hallowell?
- A) Ask for help from the people around you.
 - B) Use the belt-tightening strategies for survival.
 - C) Seek professional advice and take action.
 - D) Understand the situation and be fully prepared.
56. In Hallowell's view, people's reaction to the terrorist threat last fall was _____.
- A) ridiculous B) understandable C) over-cautious D) sensible

Passage Two

Questions 57 to 61 are based on the following passage.

Amitai Etzioni is not surprised by the latest headings about scheming corporate crooks(骗子). As a visiting professor at the Harvard Business School in 1989, he ended his work there disgusted with his students' overwhelming lost for money. "They're taught that profit is all that matters," he says. "Many schools don't even offer ethics(伦理学) courses at all."

Etzioni expressed his frustration about the interests of his graduate students. "By and large, I clearly had not found a way to help classes full of MBAs see that there is more to life than money, power, fame and self-interest." He wrote at the time. Today he still takes the blame for not educating these "business-leaders-to-be." "I really like I failed them," he says. "If I was a better teacher maybe I could have reached them."

Etzioni was a respected ethics expert when he arrived at Harvard. He hoped his work at the university would give him insight into how questions of morality could be applied to places where self-interest flourished. What he found wasn't encouraging. Those would be executives had, says Etzioni, little interest in concepts of ethics and morality in the boardroom - and their professor was met with blank stares when he urged his students to see business in new and different ways.

Etzioni sees the experience at Harvard as an eye-opening one and says there's much

about business schools that he'd like to change. "A lot of the faculty teaching business are bad news themselves," Etzioni says. From offering classes that teach students how to legally manipulate contracts, to reinforcing the notion of profit over community interests, Etzioni has seen a lot that's left him shaking his head. And because of what he's seen taught in business schools, he's not surprised by the latest rash of corporate scandals. "In many ways things have got a lot worse at business schools, I suspect," says Etzioni.

Etzioni is still teaching the sociology of right and wrong and still calling for ethical business leadership. "People with poor motives will always exist." He says. "Sometimes environments constrain those people and sometimes environments give those people opportunity." Etzioni says the booming economy of the last decade enabled those individuals with poor motives to get rich before getting in trouble. His hope now: that the cries for reform will provide more fertile soil for his long-standing messages about business ethics.

57. What impressed Amitai Etzioni most about Harvard MBA students?

- A) Their keen interest in business courses.
- B) Their intense desire for money.
- C) Their tactics for making profits.
- D) Their potential to become business leaders.

58. Why did Amitai Etzioni say "I really feel like I failed them" (Line 4, Para. 2)?

- A) He was unable to alert his students to corporate malpractice.
- B) He didn't teach his students to see business in new and different ways.
- C) He could not get his students to understand the importance of ethics in business.
- D) He didn't offer courses that would meet the expectations of the business-leaders-to-be.

59. Most would-be executives at the Harvard Business School believed that _____.

- A) questions of morality were of utmost importance in business affairs
- B) self-interest should not be the top priority in business dealings
- C) new and different principles should be taught at business schools
- D) there was no place for ethics and morality in business dealings

60. In Etzioni's view, the latest rash of corporate scandals could be attributed to _____.

- A) the tendency in business schools to stress self-interest over business ethics
- B) the executives' lack of knowledge in legally manipulating contracts
- C) the increasingly fierce competition in the modern business world
- D) the moral corruption of business school graduates

61. We learn from the last paragraph that _____.

- A) the calls for reform will help promote business ethics
- B) businessmen with poor motives will gain the upper hand
- C) business ethics courses should be taught in all business schools
- D) reform in business management contributes to economic growth

2007 年 6 月

Section B

Directions: There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on Answer Sheet 2 with a single line through the centre.

Passage One

Questions 52 to 56 are based on the following passage.

You hear the refrain all the time: the U.S. economy looks good statistically, but it doesn't feel good. Why doesn't ever-greater wealth promote ever-greater happiness? It is a question that dates at least to the appearance in 1958 of *The Affluent(富裕的) Society* by John Kenneth Galbraith, who died recently at 97.

The Affluent Society is a modern classic because it helped define a new moment in the human condition. For most of history, "hunger, sickness, and cold" threatened nearly everyone, Galbraith wrote. "Poverty was found everywhere in that world. Obviously it is not of ours." After World War II, the dread of another Great Depression gave way to an economic boom. In the 1930s unemployment had averaged 18.2 percent; in the 1950s it was 4.5 percent.

To Galbraith, materialism had gone mad and would breed discontent. Through advertising, companies conditioned consumers to buy things they didn't really want or need. Because so much spending was artificial, it would be unfulfilling. Meanwhile, government spending that would make everyone better off was being cut down because people instinctively - and wrongly - labeled government only as "a necessary evil."

It's often said that only the rich are getting ahead; everyone else is standing still or falling behind. Well, there are many undeserving rich - overpaid chief executives, for instance. But over any meaningful period, most people's incomes are increasing. From 1995 to 2004, inflation-adjusted average family income rose 14.3 percent, to \$43,200. People feel "squeezed" because their rising incomes often don't satisfy their rising wants - for bigger homes, more health care, more education, faster Internet connections.

The other great frustration is that it has not eliminated insecurity. People regard job stability as part of their standard of living. As corporate layoffs increased, that part has eroded. More workers fear they've become "the disposable American," as Louis Uchitelle puts it in his book by the same name.

Because so much previous suffering and social conflict stemmed from poverty, the arrival of widespread affluence suggested utopian(乌托邦式的) possibilities. Up to a point, affluence succeeds. There is much less physical misery than before. People are better off. Unfortunately, affluence also creates new complaints and contradictions.

Advanced societies need economic growth to satisfy the multiplying wants of their citizens. But the quest for growth lets loose new anxieties and economic conflicts that disturb the social order. Affluence liberates the individual, promising that everyone can choose a unique way to self-fulfillment. But the promise is so extravagant that it predestines many disappointments and sometimes inspires choices that have anti-social consequences, including family breakdown and obesity(肥胖症). Statistical indicators of happiness have not risen with incomes.

Should we be surprised? Not really. We've simply reaffirmed an old truth: the pursuit of affluence does not always end with happiness.

52. What question does John Kenneth Galbraith raise in his book *The Affluent Society*?

- A) Why statistics don't tell the truth about the economy.
- B) Why affluence doesn't guarantee happiness.
- C) How happiness can be promoted today.
- D) What lies behind an economic boom.

53. According to Galbraith, people feel discontented because _____.

- A) public spending hasn't been cut down as expected
- B) the government has proved to be a necessary evil
- C) they are in fear of another Great Depression
- D) materialism has run wild in modern society

54. Why do people feel squeezed when their average income rises considerably?

- A) Their material pursuits have gone far ahead of their earnings.
- B) Their purchasing power has dropped markedly with inflation.
- C) The distribution of wealth is uneven between the rich and the poor.
- D) Health care and educational cost have somehow gone out of control.

55. What does Louis Uchitelle mean by "the disposable American" (Line 3, Para. 5)?

- A) Those who see job stability as part of their living standard.
- B) People full of utopian ideas resulting from affluence.
- C) People who have little say in American politics.
- D) Workers who no longer have secure jobs.

56. What has affluence brought to American society?

- A) Renewed economic security.
- B) A sense of self-fulfillment.
- C) New conflicts and complaints.
- D) Misery and anti-social behavior.

Passage Two

Questions 57 to 61 are based on the following passage.

The use of deferential(敬重的) language is symbolic of the Confucian ideal of the woman, which dominates conservative gender norms in Japan. This ideal presents a woman who withdraws quietly to the background, subordinating her life and needs to those of her family and its male head. She is a dutiful daughter, wife, and mother, master of the domestic arts. The typical refined Japanese woman excels in modesty and delicacy; she "treads softly(谨言慎行) in the world," elevating feminine beauty and grace to an art form.

Nowadays, it is commonly observed that young women are not conforming to the feminine linguistic(语言的) ideal. They are using fewer of the very deferential "women's"

forms, and even using the few strong forms that are known as "men's." This, of course, attracts considerable attention and has led to an outcry in the Japanese media against the defeminization of women's language. Indeed, we didn't hear about "men's language" until people began to respond to girls' appropriation of forms normally reserved for boys and men. There is considerable sentiment about the "corruption" of women's language - which of course is viewed as part of the loss of feminine ideals and morality - and this sentiment is crystallized by nationwide opinion polls that are regularly carried out by the media.

Yoshiko Matsumoto has argued that young women probably never used as many of the highly deferential forms as older women. This highly polite style is no doubt something that young women have been expected to "grow into" - after all, it is assigned not simply of femininity, but of maturity and refinement, and its use could be taken to indicate a change in the nature of one's social relations as well. One might well imagine little girls using exceedingly polite forms when playing house or imitating older women - in a fashion analogous to little girls' use of a high-pitched voice to do "teacher talk" or "mother talk" in role play.

The fact that young Japanese women are using less deferential language is a sure sign of change - of social change and of linguistic change. But it is most certainly not a sign of the "masculinization" of girls. In some instances, it may be a sign that girls are making the same claim to authority as boys and men, but that is very different from saying that they are trying to be "masculine." Katsue Reynolds has argued that girls nowadays are using more assertive language strategies in order to be able to compete with boys in schools and out. Social change also brings not simply different positions for women and girls, but different relations to life stages, and adolescent girls are participating in new subcultural forms. Thus what may, to an older speaker, seem like "masculine" speech may seem to an adolescent like "liberated" or "hip" speech.

57. The first paragraph describes in detail _____.

- A) the standards set for contemporary Japanese women
- B) the Confucian influence on gender norms in Japan
- C) the stereotyped role of women in Japanese families
- D) the norms for traditional Japanese women to follow

58. What change has been observed in today's young Japanese women?

- A) They pay less attention to their linguistic behavior.
- B) They use fewer of the deferential linguistic forms.
- C) They confuse male and female forms of language.
- D) They employ very strong linguistic expressions.

59. How do some people react to women's appropriation of men's language forms as reported in the Japanese media?

- A) They call for a campaign to stop the defeminization.
- B) They see it as an expression of women's sentiment.
- C) They accept it as a modern trend.
- D) They express strong disapproval.

60. According to Yoshiko Matsumoto, the linguistic behavior observed in today's young women _____.

- A) may lead to changes in social relations
- B) has been true of all past generations
- C) is viewed as a sign of their maturity
- D) is a result of rapid social progress

61. The author believes that the use of assertive language by young Japanese women is _____.

- A) a sure sign of their defeminization and maturation
- B) an indication of their defiance against social change
- C) one of their strategies to compete in a male-dominated society
- D) an inevitable trend of linguistic development in Japan today

2007 年 12 月

Section B

Directions: There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked [A], [B], [C] and [D]. You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on Answer Sheet 2 with a single line through the centre.

Passage One

Questions 52 to 56 are based on the following passage.

Like most people, I've long understood that I will be judged by my occupation, that my profession is a gauge people use to see how smart or talented I am. Recently, however, I was disappointed to see that it also decides how I'm treated as a person.

Last year I left a professional position as a small-town reporter and took a job waiting tables. As someone paid to serve food to people. I had customers say and do things to me I suspect they'd never say or do to their most casual acquaintances. One night a man talking on his cell phone waved me away, then beckoned(示意) me back with his finger minute later, complaining he was ready to order and asking where I'd been.

I had waited tables during summers in college and was treated like a peon(勤杂工) plenty of people. But at 19 years old, I believed I deserved inferior treatment from professional adults. Besides, people responded to me differently after I told them I was in college. Customers would joke that one day I'd be sitting at their table, waiting to be served.

Once I graduated I took a job at a community newspaper. From my first day, I heard a respectful tone from everyone who called me. I assumed this was the way the professional world worked - cordially.

I soon found out differently. I sat several feet away from an advertising sales representative with a similar name. Our calls would often get mixed up and someone asking for Kristen would be transferred to Christie. The mistake was immediately evident. Perhaps it was because money was involved, but people used a tone with Kristen that they never used with me.

My job title made people treat me with courtesy. So it was a shock to return to the restaurant industry.

It's no secret that there's a lot to put up with when waiting tables, and fortunately, much of it can be easily forgotten when you pocket the tips. The service industry, by definition, exists to cater to others' needs. Still, it seemed that many of my customers didn't get the difference between server and servant.

I'm now applying to graduated school, which means someday I'll return to a profession where people need to be nice to me in order to get what they want, I think I'll take them to dinner first, and see how they treat someone whose only job is to serve them.

52. The author was disappointed to find that _____.
[A] one's position is used as a gauge to measure one's intelligence
[B] talented people like her should fail to get a respectable job
[C] one's occupation affects the way one is treated as a person
[D] professionals tend to look down upon manual workers
53. What does the author intend to say by the example in the second paragraph?
[A] Some customers simply show no respect to those who serve them.
[B] People absorbed in a phone conversation tend to be absent-minded.
[C] Waitresses are often treated by customers as casual acquaintances.
[D] Some customers like to make loud complaints for no reason at all.
54. How did the author feel when waiting tables at the age of 19?
[A] She felt it unfair to be treated as a mere servant by professional.
[B] She felt badly hurt when her customers regarded her as a peon.
[C] She was embarrassed each time her customers joked with her.
[D] She found it natural for professionals to treat her as inferior.
55. What does the author imply by saying "...many of my customers didn't get the difference between server and servant" (Lines 3-4, Para.7)?
[A] Those who cater to others' needs are destined to be looked down upon.
[B] Those working in the service industry shouldn't be treated as servants.
[C] Those serving others have to put up with rough treatment to earn a living.
[D] The majority of customers tend to look on a servant as server nowadays.
56. The author says she'll one day take her clients to dinner in order to _____.
[A] see what kind of person they are [B] experience the feeling of being served
[C] show her generosity towards people inferior to her
[D] arouse their sympathy for people living a humble life

Passage Two

Questions 57 to 61 are based on the following passage.

What's hot for 2007 among the very rich? A \$7.3 million diamond ring. A trip to Tanzania to hunt wild animals. Oh, and income inequality.

Sure, some leftish billionaires like George Soros have been railing against income inequality for years. But increasingly, centrist and right-wing billionaires are starting to worry about income inequality and the fate of the middle class.

In December, Mortimer Zuckerman wrote a column in U.S. News & World Report, which he owns. "our nation's core bargain with the middle class is disintegrating," lamented(哀叹) the 117th-richest man in America. "Most of our economic gains have gone to people at the very top of the income ladder. Average income for a household of people of working age, by contrast, has fallen five years in a row." He noted that "Tens of millions of Americans live in fear that a major health problem can reduce them to bankruptcy."

Wilbur Ross Jr. has echoed Zuckerman's anger over the bitter struggles faced by middle-class Americans. "It's an outrage that any American's life expectancy should be shortened simply because the company they worked for went bankrupt and ended

health-care coverage," said the former chairman of the International Steel Group.

What's happening? The very rich are just as trendy as you and I, and can be so when it comes to politics and policy. Given the recent change of control in Congress, the popularity of measures like increasing the minimum wage, and efforts by California's governor to offer universal health care, these guys don't need their own personal weathermen to know which way the wind blows.

It's possible that plutocrats(有钱有势的人) are expressing solidarity with the struggling middle class as part of an effort to insulate themselves from confiscatory(没收性的) tax policies. But the prospect that income inequality will lead to higher taxes on the wealthy doesn't keep plutocrats up at night. They can live with that.

No, what they fear was that the political challenges of sustaining support for global economic integration will be more difficult in the United States because of what has happened to the distribution of income and economic insecurity.

In other words, if middle-class Americans continue to struggle financially as the ultrawealthy grow ever wealthier, it will be increasingly difficult to maintain political support for the free flow of goods, services, and capital across borders. And when the United States places obstacles in the way of foreign investors and foreign goods, it's likely to encourage reciprocal action abroad. For people who buy and sell companies, or who allocate capital to markets all around the world, that's the real nightmare.

57. What is the current topic of common interest among the very rich in America?

- [A] The fate of the ultrawealthy people. [B] The disintegration of the middle class.
- [C] The inequality in the distribution of wealth.
- [D] The conflict between the left and the right wing.

58. What do we learn from Mortimer Zuckerman's lamentation?

- [A] Many middle-income families have failed to make a bargain for better welfare.
- [B] The American economic system has caused companies to go bankrupt.
- [C] The American nation is becoming more and more divided despite its wealth.
- [D] The majority of Americans benefit little from the nation's growing wealth.

59. From the fifth paragraph we can learn that _____.

- [A] the very rich are fashion-conscious [B] the very rich are politically sensitive
- [C] universal health care is to be implemented throughout America
- [D] Congress has gained popularity by increasing the minimum wage

60. What is the real reason for plutocrats to express solidarity with the middle class?

- [A] They want to protect themselves from confiscatory taxation.
- [B] They know that the middle class contributes most to society.
- [C] They want to gain support for global economic integration.
- [D] They feel increasingly threatened by economic insecurity.

61. What may happen if the United States places obstacles in the way of foreign investors and foreign goods?

- [A] The prices of imported goods will inevitably soar beyond control.
- [B] The investors will have to make great efforts to re-allocate capital.
- [C] The wealthy will attempt to buy foreign companies across borders.
- [D] Foreign countries will place the same economic barriers in return.

2008 年 6 月

Section B

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Passage One

Questions 52 to 56 are based on the following passage.

Imagine waking up and finding the value of your assets has been halved. No, you're not an investor in one of those hedge funds that failed completely. With the dollar slumping to a 26-year low against the pound, already-expensive London has become quite unaffordable. A coffee at Starbucks, just as unavoidable in England as it is in the United States, runs about \$8.

The once all-powerful dollar isn't doing a Titanic against just the pound. It is sitting at a record low against the euro and at a 30-year low against the Canadian dollar. Even the Argentine peso and Brazilian real are thriving against the dollar.

The weak dollar is a source of humiliation, for a nation's self-esteem rests in part on the strength of its currency. It's also a potential economic problem, since a declining dollar makes imported food more expensive and exerts upward pressure on interest rates. And yet there are substantial sectors of the vast U.S. economy - from giant companies like Coca-Cola to mom-and-pop restaurant operators in Miami - for which the weak dollar is most excellent news.

Many Europeans may view the U.S. as an arrogant superpower that has become hostile to foreigners. But nothing makes people think more warmly of the U.S. than a weak dollar. Through April, the total number of visitors from abroad was up 6.8 percent from last year. Should the trend continue, the number of tourists this year will finally top the 2000 peak? Many Europeans now apparently view the U.S. the way many Americans view Mexico - as a cheap place to vacation, shop and party, all while ignoring the fact that the poorer locals can't afford to join the merrymaking.

The money tourists spend helps decrease our chronic trade deficit. So do exports, which thanks in part to the weak dollar, soared 11 percent between May 2006 and May 2007. For first five months of 2007, the trade deficit actually fell 7 percent from 2006.

If you own shares in large American corporations, you're a winner in the weak-dollar gamble. Last week Coca-Cola's stock bubbled to a five-year high after it reported a fantastic quarter. Foreign sales accounted for 65 percent of Coke's beverage business. Other American companies profiting from this trend include McDonald's and IBM.

American tourists, however, shouldn't expect any relief soon. The dollar lost strength the

way many marriages break up slowly, and then all at once. And currencies don't turn on a dime. So if you want to avoid the pain inflicted by the increasingly pathetic dollar, cancel that summer vacation to England and look to New England. There, the dollar is still treated with a little respect.

52. Why do Americans feel humiliated?

- A. Their economy is plunging.
- B. They can't afford trips to Europe.
- C. Their currency has slumped.
- D. They have lost half of their assets.

53. How does the current dollar affect the life of ordinary Americans?

- A. They have to cancel their vacations in New England.
- B. They find it unaffordable to dine in mom-and-pop restaurants.
- C. They have to spend more money when buying imported goods.
- D. They might lose their jobs due to potential economic problems.

54. How do many Europeans feel about the U.S. with the devalued dollar?

- A. They feel contemptuous of it.
- B. They are sympathetic with it.
- C. They regard it as a superpower on the decline.
- D. They think of it as a good tourist destination.

55. What is the author's advice to Americans?

- A. They treat the dollar with a little respect.
- B. They try to win in the weak-dollar gamble.
- C. They vacation at home rather than abroad.
- D. They treasure their marriages all the more.

56. What does the author imply by saying "currencies don't turn on a dime" (Line 2, Para.7)?

- A. The dollar's value will not increase in the short term.
- B. The value of a dollar will not be reduced to a dime.
- C. The dollar's value will drop, but within a small margin.
- D. Few Americans will change dollars into other currencies.

Passage Two

Questions 57 to 61 are based on the following passage.

In the college-admissions wars, we parents are the true fights. We are pushing our kids to get good grades, take SAT preparatory courses and build resumes so they can get into the college of our first choice. I've twice been to the wars, and as I survey the battlefield, something different is happening. We see our kids' college background as a prize demonstrating how well we've raised them. But we can't acknowledge that our obsession(痴迷) is more about us than them. So we've contrived various justifications that turn out to be half-truths, prejudices or myths. It actually doesn't matter much whether Aaron and Nicole go to Stanford.

We have a full-blown prestige panic; we worry that there won't be enough prizes to go around. Fearful parents urge their children to apply to more schools than ever. Underlying the hysteria(歇斯底里) is the belief that scarce elite degrees must be highly valuable. Their graduates must enjoy more success because they get a better education and develop better contacts. All that is plausible - and mostly wrong. We haven't found any convincing evidence that selectivity or prestige matters. Selective schools don't systematically employ better instructional approaches than less selective schools. On two measures - professors' feedback

and the number of essay exams - selective schools do slightly worse.

By some studies, selective schools do enhance their graduates' lifetime earnings. The gain is reckoned at 2-4% for every 100-point increase in a school's average SAT scores. But even this advantage is probably a statistical fluke(偶然). A well-known study examined students who got into highly selective schools and then went elsewhere. They earned just as much as graduates from higher-status schools.

Kids count more than their colleges. Getting into Yale may signify intelligence, talent and ambition. But it's not the only indicator and, paradoxically, its significance is declining. The reason: so many similar people go elsewhere. Getting into college is not life only competition. Old-boy networks are breaking down. Princeton economist Alan Krueger studied admissions to one top Ph.D. program. High scores on the GRE helped explain who got in; degrees of prestigious universities didn't.

So, parents, lighten up. The stakes have been vastly exaggerated. Up to a point, we can rationalize our pushiness. America is a competitive society; our kids need to adjust to that, but too much pushiness can be destructive. The very ambition we impose on our children may get some into Harvard but may also set them up for disappointment. One study found that, other things being equal, graduates of highly selective schools experienced more job dissatisfaction. They may have been so conditioned to being on top that anything less disappoints.

57. Why does the author say that parents are the true fighters in the college-admissions wars?

- A. They have the final say in which university their children are to attend.
- B. They know best which universities are most suitable for their children.
- C. They have to carry out intensive surveys of colleges before children make an application.
- D. They care more about which college their children go to than the children themselves.

58. Why do parents urge their children to apply to more schools than ever?

- A. They want to increase their children's chances of entering a prestigious college.
- B. They hope their children can enter a university that offers attractive scholarships.
- C. Their children will have a wider choice of which college to go to.
- D. Elite universities now enroll fewer students than they used to.

59. What does the author mean by kids count more than their college (Line 1, para. 4)?

- A. Continuing education is more important to a person's success.
- B. A person's happiness should be valued more than their education.
- C. Kids' actual abilities are more important than their college background.
- D. What kids learn at college cannot keep up with job market requirements.

60. What does Krueger's study tell us?

- A. Getting into Ph.D. programs may be more competitive than getting into college.
- B. Degrees of prestigious universities do not guarantee entry to graduate programs.
- C. Graduates from prestigious universities do not care much about their GRE scores.
- D. Connections built in prestigious universities may be sustained long after graduation.

61. One possible result of pushing children into elite universities is that ____.

- A. they earn less than their peers from other institutions
- B. they turn out to be less competitive in the job market
- C. they experience more job dissatisfaction after graduation

D. they overemphasize their qualifications in job application

2008 年 12 月

Section B

Directions: There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked [A], [B], [C] and [D]. You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on Answer Sheet 2 with a single line through the centre.

Passage One

Questions 52 to 56 are based on the following passage.

Sustainable development is applied to just about everything from energy to clean water and economic growth, and as a result it has become difficult to question either the basic assumptions behind it or the way the concept is put to use. This is especially true in agriculture, where sustainable development is often taken as the sole measure of progress without a proper appreciation of historical and cultural perspectives.

To start with, it is important to remember that the nature of agriculture has changed markedly throughout history, and will continue to do so. Medieval agriculture in northern Europe fed, clothed and sheltered a predominantly rural society with a much lower population density than it is today. It had minimal effect on biodiversity, and any pollution it caused was typically localized. In terms of energy use and the nutrients(营养成分) captured in the product it was relatively inefficient.

Contrast this with farming since the start of the industrial revolution. Competition from overseas led farmers to specialize and increase yields. Throughout this period food became cheaper, safer and more reliable. However, these changes have also led to habitat(栖息地) loss and to diminishing biodiversity.

What's more, demand for animal products in developing countries is growing so fast that meeting it will require an extra 300 million tons of grain a year by 2050. Yet the growth of cities and industry is reducing the amount of water available for agriculture in many regions.

All this means that agriculture in the 21st century will have to be very different from how it was in the 20th. This will require radical thinking. For example, we need to move away from the idea that traditional practices are inevitably more sustainable than new ones. We also need to abandon the notion that agriculture can be "zero impact". The key will be to abandon the rather simple and static measures of sustainability, which centre on the need to maintain production without increasing damage.

Instead we need a more dynamic interpretation, one that looks at the pros and cons(正反两方面) of all the various ways land is used. There are many different ways to measure agricultural performance besides food yield: energy use, environmental costs, water purity, carbon footprint and biodiversity. It is clear, for example, that the carbon of transporting

tomatoes from Spain to the UK is less than that of producing them in the UK with additional heating and lighting. But we do not know whether lower carbon footprints will always be better for biodiversity.

What is crucial is recognizing that sustainable agriculture is not just about sustainable food production.

52. How do people often measure progress in agriculture?

- A) By its productivity. B) By its sustainability.
- C) By its impact on the environment. D) By its contribution to economic growth.

53. Specialisation and the effort to increase yields have resulted in _____.

- A) Localised pollution B) the shrinking of farmland
- C) competition from overseas D) the decrease of biodiversity

54. What does the author think of traditional farming practices?

- A) They have remained the same over the centuries.
- B) They have not kept pace with population growth.
- C) They are not necessarily sustainable. D) They are environmentally friendly.

55. What will agriculture be like in the 21st century?

- A) It will go through radical changes. B) It will supply more animal products.
- C) It will abandon traditional farming practices.
- D) It will cause zero damage to the environment.

56. What is the author's purpose in writing this passage?

- A) To remind people of the need of sustainable development.
- B) To suggest ways of ensuring sustainable food production.
- C) To advance new criteria for measuring farming progress.
- D) To urge people to rethink what sustainable agriculture is.

Passage Two

Questions 57 to 61 are based on the following passage.

The percentage of immigrants (including those unlawfully present) in the United states has been creeping upward for years. At 12.6 percent, it is now higher than at any point since the mid 1920s.

We are not about to go back to the days when Congress openly worried about inferior races polluting America's bloodstream. But once again we are wondering whether we have too many of the wrong sort newcomers. Their loudest critics argue that the new wave of immigrants cannot, and indeed do not want to, fit in as previous generations did.

We now know that these racist views were wrong. In time, Italians, Romanians and members of other so-called inferior races became exemplary Americans and contributed greatly, in ways too numerous to detail, to the building of this magnificent nation. There is no reason why these new immigrants should not have the same success.

Although children of Mexican immigrants do better, in terms of educational and professional attainment, than their parents UCLA sociologist Edward Telles has found that the gains don't continue. Indeed, the fourth generation is marginally worse off than the third James Jackson, of the University of Michigan, has found a similar trend among black

Caribbean immigrants, Tells fears that Mexican-Americans may be fated to follow in the footsteps of American blacks-that large parts of the community may become mired(陷入) in a seemingly permanent state of poverty and Underachievement. Like African-Americans, Mexican-Americans are increasingly relegated to(降入) segregated, substandard schools, and their dropout rate is the highest for any ethnic group in the country.

We have learned much about the foolish idea of excluding people on the presumption of the ethnic/racial inferiority. But what we have not yet learned is how to make the process of Americanization work for all. I am not talking about requiring people to learn English or to adopt American ways; those things happen pretty much on their own, but as arguments about immigration hear up the campaign trail, we also ought to ask some broader question about assimilation, about how to ensure that people, once outsiders, don't forever remain marginalized within these shores.

That is a much larger question than what should happen with undocumented workers, or how best to secure the border, and it is one that affects not only newcomers but groups that have been here for generations. It will have more impact on our future than where we decide to set the admissions bar for the latest ware of would-be Americans. And it would be nice if we finally got the answer right.

57. How were immigrants viewed by U.S. Congress in early days?

- A) They were of inferior races. B) They were a Source of political corruption.
- C) They were a threat to the nation's security. D) They were part of the nation's bloodstream.

58. What does the author think of the new immigrants?

- A) They will be a dynamic work force in the U.S.
- B) They can do just as well as their predecessors.
- C) They will be very disappointed on the new land.
- D) They may find it hard to fit into the mainstream.

59. What does Edward Telles' research say about Mexican-Americans?

- A) They may slowly improve from generation to generation.
- B) They will do better in terms of educational attainment.
- C) They will melt into the African-American community.
- D) They may forever remain poor and underachieving.

60. What should be done to help the new immigrants?

- A) Rid them of their inferiority complex. B) Urge them to adopt American customs.
- C) Prevent them from being marginalized. D) Teach them standard American English.

61. According to the author, the burning issue concerning immigration is _____.

- A) How to deal with people entering the U.S. without documents
- B) How to help immigrants to better fit into American society
- C) How to stop illegal immigrants from crossing the border
- D) How to limit the number of immigrants to enter the U.S.

2009 年 6 月

Section B

Directions: There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked [A], [B], [C] and [D]. You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on Answer Sheet 2 with a single line through the centre.

Passage One

Questions 52 to 56 are based on the following passage.

For hundreds of millions of years, turtles(海龟) have struggled out of the sea to lay their eggs on sandy beaches, long before there were nature documentaries to celebrate them, or GPS satellites and marine biologists to track them, or volunteers to hand-carry the hatchlings(幼龟) down to the water's edge lest they become disoriented by headlights and crawl towards a motel parking lot instead. A formidable wall of bureaucracy has been erected to protect their prime nesting on the Atlantic coastlines. With all that attention paid to them, you'd think these creatures would at least have the gratitude not to go extinct.

But Nature is indifferent to human notions of fairness, and a report by the Fish and Wildlife Service showed a worrisome drop in the populations of several species of North Atlantic turtles, notably loggerheads, which can grow to as much as 400 pounds. The South Florida nesting population, the largest, has declined by 50% in the last decade, according to Elizabeth Griffin, a marine biologist with the environmental group Oceana. The figures prompted Oceana to petition the government to upgrade the level of protection for the North Atlantic loggerheads from "threatened" to "endangered" - meaning they are in danger of disappearing without additional help.

Which raises the obvious question: what else do these turtles want from us, anyway? It turns out, according to Griffin, that while we have done a good job of protecting the turtles for the weeks they spend on land (as egg-laying females, as eggs and as hatchlings), we have neglected the years spend in the ocean. "The threat is from commercial fishing," says Griffin. Trawlers (which drag large nets through the water and along the ocean floor) and long line fishers (which can deploy thousands of hooks on lines that can stretch for miles) take a heavy toll on turtles.

Of course, like every other environmental issue today, this is playing out against the background of global warming and human interference with natural ecosystems. The narrow strips of beach on which the turtles lay their eggs are being squeezed on one side by development and on the other by the threat of rising sea levels as the oceans warm. Ultimately we must get a handle on those issues as well, or a creature that outlived the dinosaurs(恐龙) will meet its end at the hands of humans, leaving our descendants to wonder how creature so ugly could have won so much affection.

52. We can learn from the first paragraph that _____.
A. human activities have changed the way turtles survive
B. efforts have been made to protect turtles from dying out
C. government bureaucracy has contributed to turtles' extinction
D. marine biologists are looking for the secret of turtles' reproduction
53. What does the author mean by "Nature is indifferent to human notions of fairness" (Line 1, Para. 2)?
A. Nature is quite fair regarding the survival of turtles.
B. Turtles are by nature indifferent to human activities.
C. The course of nature will not be changed by human interference.
D. The turtle population has decreased in spite of human protection.
54. What constitutes a major threat to the survival of turtles according to Elizabeth Griffin?
A. Their inadequate food supply. B. Unregulated commercial fishing.
C. Their lower reproductively ability. D. Contamination of sea water.
55. How does global warming affect the survival of turtles?
A. It threatens the sandy beaches on which they lay eggs.
B. The changing climate makes it difficult for their eggs to hatch.
C. The rising sea levels make it harder for their hatchlings to grow.
D. It takes them longer to adapt to the high beach temperature.
56. The last sentence of the passage is meant to _____.
A. persuade human beings to show more affection for turtles
B. stress that even the most ugly species should be protected
C. call for effective measures to ensure sea turtles' survival
D. warn our descendants about the extinction of species

Passage Two

Questions 57 to 61 are based on the following passage.

There are few more sobering online activities than entering data into college-tuition calculators and gasping as the Web spits back a six-figure sum. But economists say families about to go into debt to fund four years of partying, as well as studying, can console themselves with the knowledge that college is an investment that, unlike many bank stocks, should yield huge dividends.

A 2008 study by two Harvard economists notes that the "labor-market premium to skill" - or the amount college graduates earned that's greater than what high-school graduate earned - decreased for much of the 20th century, but has come back with a vengeance(报复性地) since the 1980s. In 2005, The typical full-time year-round U.S. worker with a four-year college degree earned \$50,900, 62% more than the \$31,500 earned by a worker with only a high-school diploma.

There's no question that going to college is a smart economic choice. But a look at the strange variations in tuition reveals that the choice about which college to attend doesn't come down merely to dollars and cents. Does going to Columbia University (tuition, room and board \$49,260 in 2007-08) yield a 40% greater return than attending the University of

Colorado at Boulder as an out-of-state student (\$35,542)? Probably not. Does being an out-of-state student at the University of Colorado at Boulder yield twice the amount of income as being an in-state student (\$17,380) there? Not likely.

No, in this consumerist age, most buyers aren't evaluating college as an investment, but rather as a consumer product - like a car or clothes or a house. And with such purchases, price is only one of many crucial factors to consider.

As with automobiles, consumers in today's college marketplace have vast choices, and people search for the one that gives them the most comfort and satisfaction in line with their budgets. This accounts for the willingness of people to pay more for different types of experiences (such as attending a private liberal-arts college or going to an out-of-state public school that has a great marine-biology program). And just as two auto purchasers might spend an equal amount of money on very different cars, college students (or, more accurately, their parents) often show a willingness to pay essentially the same price for vastly different products. So which is it? Is college an investment product like a stock or a consumer product like a car? In keeping with the automotive world's hottest consumer trend, maybe it's best to characterize it as a hybrid(混合动力汽车); an expensive consumer product that, over time, will pay rich dividends.

57. What's the opinion of economists about going to college?

- A. Huge amounts of money is being wasted on campus socializing.
- B. It doesn't pay to run into debt to receive a college education.
- C. College education is rewarding in spite of the startling costs.
- D. Going to college doesn't necessarily bring the expected returns.

58. The two Harvard economists note in their study that, for much of the 20th century, _____.

- A. enrollment kept decreasing in virtually all American colleges and universities
- B. the labor market preferred high-school to college graduates
- C. competition for university admissions was far more fierce than today
- D. the gap between the earnings of college and high-school graduates narrowed

59. Students who attend an in-state college or university can _____.

- A. save more on tuition
- B. receive a better education
- C. take more liberal-arts courses
- D. avoid traveling long distances

60. In this consumerist age, most parents _____.

- A. regard college education as a wise investment
- B. place a premium on the prestige of the College
- C. think it crucial to send their children to college
- D. consider college education a consumer product

61. What is the chief consideration when students choose a college today?

- A. Their employment prospects after graduation.
- B. A satisfying experience within their budgets.
- C. Its facilities and learning environment.
- D. Its ranking among similar institutions.

2009 年 12 月

Section B

Directions: There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked [A], [B], [C] and [D]. You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on Answer Sheet 2 with a single line through the centre.

Passage One

Questions 52 to 56 are based on the following passage.

Crippling health care bills, long emergency-room waits and the inability to find a primary care physician just scratch the surface of the problems that patients face daily.

Primary care should be the backbone of any health care system. Countries with appropriate primary care resources score highly when it comes to health outcomes and cost. The U.S. takes the opposite approach by emphasizing the specialist rather than the primary care physician.

A recent study analyzed the providers who treat Medicare beneficiaries(老年医保受惠人). The startling finding was that the average Medicare patient saw a total of seven doctors - two primary care physicians and five specialists - in a given year. Contrary to popular belief, the more physicians taking care of you don't guarantee better care. Actually, increasing fragmentation of care results in a corresponding rise in cost and medical errors.

How did we let primary care slip so far? The key is how doctors are paid. Most physicians are paid whenever they perform a medical service. The more a physician does, regardless of quality or outcome, the better he's reimbursed(返还费用). Moreover, the amount a physician receives leans heavily toward medical or surgical procedures. A specialist who performs a procedure in a 30 minute visit can be paid three times more than a primary care physician using that same 30 minutes to discuss a patient's disease. Combine this fact with annual government threats to indiscriminately cut reimbursements; physicians are faced with no choice but to increase quantity to boost income.

Primary care physicians who refuse to compromise quality are either driven out of business or to cash-only practices, further contributing to the decline of primary care.

Medical students are not blind to this scenario. They see how heavily the reimbursement deck is stacked against primary care. The recent numbers show that since 1997, newly graduated U.S. medical students who choose primary care as a career have declined by 50%. This trend results in emergency rooms being overwhelmed with patients without regular doctors.

How do we fix this problem?

It starts with reforming the physician reimbursement system. Remove the pressure for primary care physicians to squeeze in more patients per hour, and reward them for

optimally(最佳地) managing their diseases and practicing evidence-based medicine. Make primary care more attractive to medical students by forgiving student loans for those who choose primary care as a career and reconciling the marked difference between specialist and primary care physician salaries.

We're at a point where primary care is needed more than ever. Within a few years, the first wave of the 76 million Baby Boomers will become eligible for Medicare. Patients older than 85, who need chronic care most, will rise by 50% this decade.

Who will be there to treat them?

52. The author's chief concern about the current U.S. health care system is _____.

- A) the inadequate training of physicians
- B) the declining number of doctors
- C) the shrinking primary care resources
- D) the ever-rising health care costs

53. We learn from the passage that people tend to believe that _____.

- A) the more costly the medicine, the more effective the cure
- B) seeing more doctors may result in more diagnostic errors
- C) visiting doctors on a regular basis ensures good health
- D) the more doctors taking care of a patient, the better he is

54. Faced with the government threats to cut reimbursements indiscriminately, primary care physicians have to _____.

- A) increase their income by working overtime
- B) improve their expertise and service
- C) make various deals with specialists
- D) see more patients at the expense of quality

55. Why do many new medical graduates refuse to choose primary care as their career?

- A) They find the need for primary care declining.
- B) The current system works against primary care.
- C) Primary care physicians command less respect.
- D) They think working in emergency rooms tedious.

56. What suggestion does the author give in order to provide better health care?

- A) Bridge the salary gap between specialists and primary care physicians.
- B) Extend primary care to patients with chronic diseases.
- C) Recruit more medical students by offering them loans.
- D) Reduce the tuition of students who choose primary care as their major.

Passage Two

Questions 57 to 61 are based on the following passage.

There is nothing like the suggestion of a cancer risk to scare a parent, especially one of the over-educated, eco-conscious type. So you can imagine the reaction when a recent USA Today investigation of air quality around the nation's schools singled out those in the smugly(自鸣得意的) green village of Berkeley, Calif., as being among the worst in the country. The city's public high school, as well as a number of daycare centers, preschools, elementary and middle schools, fell in the lowest 10%. Industrial pollution in our town had supposedly turned students into living science experiments breathing in a laboratory's worth of heavy metals like manganese, chromium and nickel each day. This in a city that requires school cafeterias to serve organic meals. Great, I thought, organic lunch, toxic campus.

Since December, when the report came out, the mayor, neighborhood activists(活跃分子) and various parent-teacher associations have engaged in a fierce battle over its validity: over the guilt of the steel-casting factory on the western edge of town, over union jobs versus children's health and over what, if anything, ought to be done. With all sides presenting their own experts armed with conflicting scientific studies, whom should parents believe? Is there truly a threat here, we asked one another as we dropped off our kids, and if so, how great is it? And how does it compare with the other, seemingly perpetual health scares we confront, like panic over lead in synthetic athletic fields? Rather than just another weird episode in the town that brought you protesting environmentalists, this latest drama is a trial for how today's parents perceive risk, how we try to keep our kids safe - whether it's possible to keep them safe - in what feels like an increasingly threatening world. It raises the question of what, in our time, "safe" could even mean.

"There's no way around the uncertainty," says Kimberly Thompson, president of Kid Risk, a nonprofit group that studies children's health. "That means your choices can matter, but it also means you aren't going to know if they do." A 2004 report in the journal *Pediatrics* explained that nervous parents have more to fear from fire, car accidents and drowning than from toxic chemical exposure. To which I say: Well, obviously. But such concrete hazards are beside the point. It's the dangers parents can't - and may never - quantify that occur all of sudden. That's why I've rid my cupboard of microwave food packed in bags coated with a potential cancer-causing substance, but although I've lived blocks from a major fault line(地质断层) for more than 12 years, I still haven't bolted our bookcases to the living room wall.

57. What does a recent investigation by USA Today reveal?

- A) Heavy metals in lab tests threaten children's health in Berkeley.
- B) Berkeley residents are quite contented with their surroundings.
- C) The air quality around Berkeley's school campuses is poor.
- D) Parents in Berkeley are over-sensitive to cancer risks their kids face.

58. What response did USA Today's report draw?

- A) A heated debate. B) Popular support. C) Widespread panic. D) Strong criticism.

59. How did parents feel in the face of the experts' studies?

- A) They felt very much relieved. B) They were frightened by the evidence.
- C) They didn't know who to believe. D) They weren't convinced of the results.

60. What is the view of the 2004 report in the journal *Pediatrics*?

- A) It is important to quantify various concrete hazards.
- B) Daily accidents pose a more serious threat to children.
- C) Parents should be aware of children's health hazards.
- D) Attention should be paid to toxic chemical exposure.

61. Of the dangers in everyday life, the author thinks that people have most to fear from _____.

- A) the uncertain B) the quantifiable C) an earthquake D) unhealthy food

2010 年 6 月

Section B

Directions: There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on Answer Sheet 2 with a single line through the centre.

Passage One

Questions 51 to 56 are based on the following passage.

Only two countries in the advanced world provide no guarantee for paid leave from work to care for a newborn child. Last spring one of the two, Australia, gave up the dubious distinction by establishing paid family leave starting in 2011. I wasn't surprised when this didn't make the news here in the United States - we're now the only wealthy country without such a policy.

The United States does have one explicit family policy, the Family and Medical Leave Act, passed in 1993. It entitles workers to as much as 12 weeks' unpaid leave for care of a newborn or dealing with a family medical problem. Despite the modesty of the benefit, the Chamber of Commerce and other business groups fought it bitterly, describing it as "government-run personnel management" and a "dangerous precedent". In fact, every step of the way, as (usually) Democratic leaders have tried to introduce work-family balance measures into the law, business groups have been strongly opposed.

As Yale law professor Anne Alstott argues, justifying parental support depends on defining the family as a social good that, in some sense, society must pay for. In her book *No Exit: What Parents Owe Their Children and What Society Owes Parents*, she argues that parents are burdened in many ways in their lives: there is "no exit" when it comes to children. "Society expects - and needs - parents to provide their children with continuity of care, meaning the intensive, intimate care that human beings need to develop their intellectual, emotional and moral capabilities. And society expects - and needs - parents to persist in their roles for 18 years, or longer if needed."

While most parents do this out of love, there are public penalties for not providing care. What parents do, in other words, is of deep concern to the state, for the obvious reason that caring for children is not only morally urgent but essential for the future of society. The state recognizes this in the large body of family laws that govern children's welfare, yet parents receive little help in meeting the life-changing obligations society imposes. To classify parenting as a personal choice for which there is no collective responsibility is not merely to ignore the social benefits of good parenting; really, it is to steal those benefits because they accrue(不断积累) to the whole of society as today's children become tomorrow's productive citizenry(公民). In fact, by some estimates, the value of parental investments in children,

investments of time and money (including lost wages), is equal to 20-30% of gross domestic product. If these investments generate huge social benefits - as they clearly do - the benefits of providing more social support for the family should be that much clearer.

52. What do we learn about paid family leave from the first paragraph?

- A) America is now the only developed country without the policy.
- B) It has now become a hot topic in the United States.
- C) It came as a surprise when Australia adopted the policy.
- D) Its meaning was clarified when it was established in Australia.

53. What has prevented the passing of work-family balance laws in the United States?

- A) The incompetence of the Democrats.
- B) The existing Family and Medical Leave Act.
- C) The lack of a precedent in American history.
- D) The opposition from business circles.

54. What is Professor Anne Alstott's argument for parental support?

- A) The cost of raising children in the U. S. has been growing.
- B) Good parenting benefits society.
- C) The U. S. should keep up with other developed countries.
- D) Children need continuous care.

55. What does the author think of America's large body of family laws governing children's welfare?

- A) They fail to ensure children's healthy growth.
- B) They fail to provide enough support for parents.
- C) They emphasize parents' legal responsibilities.
- D) They impose the care of children on parents.

56. Why does the author object to classifying parenting as a personal choice?

- A) It is regarded as a legal obligation.
- B) It relies largely on social support.
- C) It generates huge social benefits.
- D) It is basically a social undertaking.

Passage Two

Questions 57 to 62 are based on the following passage.

A new study from the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) at Tufts University shows that today's youth vote in larger numbers than previous generations, and a 2008 study from the Center for American Progress adds that increasing numbers of young voters and activists support traditionally liberal causes. But there's no easy way to see what those figures mean in real life. During the presidential campaign, Barack Obama assembled a racially and ideologically diverse coalition with his message of hope and change; as the reality of life under a new administration settles in, some of those supporters might become disillusioned. As the nation moves further into the Obama presidency, will politically engaged young people continue to support the president and his agenda, or will they gradually drift away?

The writers of Generation O (short for Obama), a new Newsweek blog that seeks to chronicle the lives of a group of young Obama supporters, want to answer that question. For the next three months, Michelle Kremer and 11 other Obama supporters, ages 19 to 34, will blog about life across mainstream America, with one twist: by tying all of their ideas and

experiences to the new president and his administration, the bloggers will try to start a conversation about what it means to be young and politically active in America today. Malena Amusa, a 24-year-old writer and dancer from St. Louis sees the project as a way to preserve history as it happens. Amusa, who is traveling to India this spring to finish a book, then to Senegal to teach English, has ongoing conversations with her friends about how the Obama presidency has changed their daily lives and hopes to put some of those ideas, along with her global perspective, into her posts. She's excited because, as she puts it, "I don't have to wait [until] 15 years from now" to make sense of the world.

Henry Flores, a political-science professor at St. Mary's University, credits this younger generation's political strength to their embrace of technology. "[The Internet] exposes them to more thinking," he says, "and groups that are like-minded in different parts of the country start to come together." That's exactly what the Generation O bloggers are hoping to do. The result could be a group of young people that, like their boomer(二战后生育高峰期出生的美国人) parents, grows up with a strong sense of purpose and sheds the image of apathy(冷漠) they've inherited from Generation X(60年代后期和70年代出生的美国人). It's no small challenge for a blog run by a group of ordinary - if ambitious - young people, but the members of Generation O are up to the task.

57. What is the finding of a new study by CIRCLE?

- A) More young voters are going to the polls than before.
- B) The young generation supports traditionally liberal causes.
- C) Young voters played a decisive role in Obama's election.
- D) Young people in America are now more diverse ideologically.

58. What is a main concern of the writers of Generation O?

- A) How Obama is going to live up to young people's expectations.
- B) Whether America is going to change during Obama's presidency.
- C) Whether young people will continue to support Obama's policy.
- D) How Obama's agenda is going to affect the life of Americans.

59. What will the Generation O bloggers write about in their posts?

- A) Their own interpretation of American politics.
- B) Policy changes to take place in Obama's administration.
- C) Obama's presidency viewed from a global perspective.
- D) Their lives in relation to Obama's presidency.

60. What accounts for the younger generation's political strength according to Professor Henry Flores?

- A) Their embrace of radical ideas. B) Their desire to change America.
- C) Their utilization of the Internet. D) Their strong sense of responsibility.

61. What can we infer from the passage about Generation X?

- A) They are politically conservative. B) They reject conventional values.
- C) They dare to take up challenges. D) They are indifferent to politics.

2010 年 12 月

Section B

Directions: There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on Answer Sheet 2 with a single line through the centre.

Passage One

Questions 52 to 56 are based on the following passage.

In the early 20th century, few things were more appealing than the promise of scientific knowledge. In a world struggling with rapid industrialization, science and technology seemed to offer solutions to almost every problem. Newly created state colleges and universities devoted themselves almost entirely to scientific, technological, and engineering fields. Many Americans came to believe that scientific certainty could not only solve scientific problems, but also reform politics, government, and business. Two world wars and a Great Depression rocked the confidence of many people that scientific expertise alone could create a prosperous and ordered world. After World War II, the academic world turned with new enthusiasm to humanistic studies, which seemed to many scholars the best way to ensure the survival of democracy. American scholars fanned out across much of the world—with support from the Ford Foundation, the Fulbright program, etc.—to promote the teaching of literature and the arts in an effort to make the case for democratic freedoms.

In the America of our own time, the great educational challenge has become an effort to strengthen the teaching of what is now known as the STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering, and math). There is considerable and justified concern that the United States is falling behind much of the rest of the developed world in these essential disciplines. India, China, Japan, and other regions seem to be seizing technological leadership.

At the same time, perhaps inevitably, the humanities—while still popular in elite colleges and universities—have experienced a significant decline. Humanistic disciplines are seriously underfunded, not just by the government and the foundations but by academic institutions themselves. Humanists are usually among the lowest-paid faculty members at most institutions and are often lightly regarded because they do not generate grant income and because they provide no obvious credentials(资质) for most nonacademic careers.

Undoubtedly American education should train more scientists and engineers. Much of the concern among politicians about the state of American universities today is focused on the absence of "real world" education—which means preparation for professional and scientific careers. But the idea that institutions or their students must decide between humanities and science is false. Our society could not survive without scientific and

technological knowledge. But we would be equally impoverished(贫困的) without humanistic knowledge as well. Science and technology teach us what we can do. Humanistic thinking helps us understand what we should do.

It is almost impossible to imagine our society without thinking of the extraordinary achievements of scientists and engineers in building our complicated world. But try to imagine our world as well without the remarkable works that have defined our culture and values. We have always needed, and we still need, both.

52. In the early 20th century Americans believed science and technology could ____.

- [A] solve virtually all existing problems [B] quicken the pace of industrialization
- [C] help raise people's living standards [D] promote the nation's social progress

53. Why did many American scholars become enthusiastic about humanistic studies after World War II?

- [A] They wanted to improve their own status within the current education system.
- [B] They believed the stability of a society depended heavily on humanistic studies.
- [C] They could get financial support from various foundations for humanistic studies.
- [D] They realized science and technology alone were no guarantee for a better world.

54. Why are American scholars worried about education today?

- [A] The STEM subjects are too challenging for students to learn.
- [B] Some Asian countries have overtaken America in basic sciences.
- [C] America is lagging behind in the STEM disciplines.
- [D] There are not enough scholars in humanistic studies.

55. What accounts for the significant decline in humanistic studies today?

- [A] Insufficient funding. [B] Shrinking enrollment.
- [C] Shortage of devoted faculty. [D] Dim prospects for graduates.

56. Why does the author attach so much importance to humanistic studies?

- [A] They promote the development of science and technology.
- [B] They help prepare students for their professional careers.
- [C] Humanistic thinking helps define our culture and values.
- [D] Humanistic thinking helps cultivate students' creativity.

Passage Two

Questions 57 to 61 are based on the following passage.

Will there ever be another Einstein? This is the undercurrent of conversation at Einstein memorial meetings throughout the year. A new Einstein will emerge, scientists say. But it may take a long time. After all, more than 200 years separated Einstein from his nearest rival, Isaac Newton.

Many physicists say the next Einstein hasn't been born yet, or is a baby now. That's because the quest for a unified theory that would account for all the forces of nature has pushed current mathematics to its limits. New math must be created before the problem can be solved.

But researchers say there are many other factors working against another Einstein emerging anytime soon.

For one thing, physics is a much different field today. In Einstein's day, there were only a few thousand physicists worldwide, and the theoreticians who could intellectually rival Einstein probably would fit into a streetcar with seats to spare.

Education is different, too. One crucial aspect of Einstein's training that is overlooked is the years of philosophy he read as a teenager—Kant, Schopenhauer and Spinoza, among others. It taught him how to think independently and abstractly about space and time, and it wasn't long before he became a philosopher himself.

"The independence created by philosophical insight is—in my opinion—the mark of distinction between a mere artisan(工匠) or specialist and a real seeker after truth," Einstein wrote in 1944.

And he was an accomplished musician. The interplay between music and math is well known. Einstein would furiously play his violin as a way to think through a knotty physics problem.

Today, universities have produced millions of physicists. There aren't many jobs in science for them, so they go to Wall Street and Silicon Valley to apply their analytical skills to more practical - and rewarding - efforts.

"Maybe there is an Einstein out there today," said Columbia University physicist Brian Greene, "but it would be a lot harder for him to be heard."

Especially considering what Einstein was proposing.

"The actual fabric of space and time curving? My God, what an idea!" Greene said at a recent gathering at the Aspen Institute. "It takes a certain type of person who will bang his head against the wall because you believe you'll find the solution."

Perhaps the best examples are the five scientific papers Einstein wrote in his "miracle year" of 1905. These "thought experiments" were pages of calculations signed and submitted to the prestigious journal *Annalen der Physik* by a virtual unknown. There were no footnotes or citations.

What might happen to such a submission today?

"We all get papers like those in the mail," Greene said. "We put them in the junk file."

57. What do scientists seem to agree upon, judging from the first two paragraphs?

- [A] Einstein pushed mathematics almost to its limits.
- [B] It will take another Einstein to build a unified theory.
- [C] No physicist is likely to surpass Einstein in the next 200 years.
- [D] It will be some time before a new Einstein emerges.

58. What was critical to Einstein's success?

- [A] His talent as an accomplished musician. [B] His independent and abstract thinking.
- [C] His untiring effort to fulfill his potential. [D] His solid foundation in math theory.

59. What does the author tell us about physicists today?

- [A] They tend to neglect training in analytical skills.
- [B] They are very good at solving practical problems.
- [C] They attach great importance to publishing academic papers.
- [D] They often go into fields yielding greater financial benefits.

60. What does Brian Greene imply by saying "... it would be a lot harder for him to be heard" (Lines 1-2, Para. 9)?

- [A] People have to compete in order to get their papers published.

[B] It is hard for a scientist to have his papers published today.

[C] Papers like Einstein's would unlikely get published today.

[D] Nobody will read papers on apparently ridiculous theories.

61. When he submitted his papers in 1905, Einstein _____.

[A] forgot to make footnotes and citations [B] was little known in academic circles

[C] was known as a young genius in math calculations

[D] knew nothing about the format of academic papers

2011 年 6 月

Section B

Directions: There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on Answer Sheet 2 with a single line through the centre.

Passage One

Questions 52 to 56 are based on the following passage.

At the heart of the debate over illegal immigration lies one key question: are immigrants good or bad for the economy? The American public overwhelmingly thinks they're bad. Yet the consensus among most economists is that immigration, both legal and illegal, provides a small net boost to the economy. Immigrants provide cheap labor, lower the prices of everything from farm produce to new homes, and leave consumers with a little more money in their pockets. So why is there such a discrepancy between the perception of immigrants' impact on the economy and the reality?

There are a number of familiar theories. Some argue that people are anxious and feel threatened by an inflow of new workers. Others highlight the strain that undocumented immigrants place on public services, like schools, hospitals, and jails. Still others emphasize the role of race, arguing that foreigners add to the nation's fears and insecurities. There's some truth to all these explanations, but they aren't quite sufficient.

To get a better understanding of what's going on; consider the way immigration's impact is felt. Though its overall effect may be positive, its costs and benefits are distributed unevenly. David Card, an economist at UC Berkeley, notes that the ones who profit most directly from immigrants' low-cost labor are businesses and employers - meatpacking plants in Nebraska, for instance, or agricultural businesses in California. Granted, these producers' savings probably translate into lower prices at the grocery store, but how many consumers make that mental connection at the checkout counter? As for the drawbacks of illegal immigration, these, too, are concentrated. Native low-skilled workers suffer most from the competition of foreign labor. According to a study by George Boras, a Harvard economist, immigration reduced the wages of American high-school dropouts by 9% between 1980-2000.

Among high-skilled, better-educated employees, however, opposition was strongest in states with both high numbers of immigrants and relatively generous social services. What worried them most, in other words, was the fiscal(财政的) burden of immigration. That conclusion was reinforced by another finding: that their opposition appeared to soften when that fiscal burden decreased, as occurred with welfare reform in the 1990s, which curbed immigrants' access to certain benefits.

The irony is that for all the overexcited debate, the net effect of immigration is minimal. Even for those most acutely affected – say, low-skilled workers, or California residents – the impact isn't all that dramatic. "The unpleasant voices have tended to dominate our perceptions," says Daniel Michener, a political science professor at the University of Oregon. "But when all those factors are put together and the economists calculate the numbers, it ends up being a net positive, but a small one." Too bad most people don't realize it.

52. What can we learn from the first paragraph?

- A) Whether immigrants are good or bad for the economy has been puzzling economists.
- B) The American economy used to thrive on immigration but now it's a different story.
- C) The consensus among economists is that immigration should not be encouraged.
- D) The general public thinks differently from most economists on the impact of immigration.

53. In what way does the author think ordinary Americans benefit from immigration?

- A) They can access all kinds of public services.
- B) They can get consumer goods at lower prices.
- C) They can mix with people of different cultures.
- D) They can avoid doing much of the manual labor.

54. Why do native low-skilled workers suffer most from illegal immigration?

- A) They have greater difficulty getting welfare support.
- B) They are more likely to encounter interracial conflicts.
- C) They have a harder time getting a job with decent pay.
- D) They are no match for illegal immigrants in labor skills.

55. What is the chief concern of native high-skilled, better-educated employees about the inflow of immigrants?

- A) It may change the existing social structure.
- B) It may pose a threat to their economic status.
- C) It may lead to social instability in the country.
- D) It may place a great strain on the state budget.

56. What is the irony about the debate over immigration?

- A) Even economists can't reach a consensus about its impact.
- B) Those who are opposed to it turn out to benefit most from it.
- C) People are making too big a fuss about something of small impact.
- D) There is no essential difference between seemingly opposite opinions.

Passage Two

Questions 57 to 61 are based on the following passage.

Picture a typical MBA lecture theatre twenty years ago. In it the majority of students will have conformed to the standard model of the time: male, middle class and Western. Walk into a class today, however, and you'll get a completely different impression. For a start, you will now see plenty more women – the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, for example, boasts that 40% of its new enrolment is female. You will also see a wide range of ethnic groups and nationals of practically every country.

It might be tempting, therefore, to think that the old barriers have been broken down

and equal opportunity achieved. But, increasingly, this apparent diversity is becoming a mask for a new type of conformity. Behind the differences in sex, skin tones and mother tongues, there are common attitudes, expectations and ambitions which risk creating a set of clones among the business leaders of the future.

Diversity, it seems, has not helped to address fundamental weaknesses in business leadership. So what can be done to create more effective managers of the commercial world? According to Valerie Gauthier, associate dean at HEC Paris, the key lies in the process by which MBA programmers recruit their students. At the moment candidates are selected on a fairly narrow set of criteria such as prior academic and career performance, and analytical and problem solving abilities. This is then coupled to a school's picture of what a diverse class should look like, with the result that passport, ethnic origin and sex can all become influencing factors. But schools rarely dig down to find out what really makes an applicant succeed, to create a class which also contains diversity of attitude and approach - arguably the only diversity that, in a business context, really matters.

Professor Gauthier believes schools should not just be selecting candidates from traditional sectors such as banking, consultancy and industry. They should also be seeking individuals who have backgrounds in areas such as political science, the creative arts, history or philosophy, which will allow them to put business decisions into a wider context.

Indeed, there does seem to be a demand for the more rounded leaders such diversity might create. A study by Manna, a leadership development company, suggests that, while the bully-boy chief executive of old may not have been eradicated completely, there is a definite shift in emphasis towards less tough styles of management - at least in America and Europe. Perhaps most significant, according to Manna, is the increasing interest large companies have in more collaborative management models, such as those prevalent in Scandinavia, which seek to integrate the hard and soft aspects of leadership and encourage delegated responsibility and accountability.

57. What characterizes the business school student population of today?

A) Greater diversity. B) Intellectual maturity. C) Exceptional diligence. D) Higher ambition.

58. What is the author's concern about current business school education?

A) It will arouse students' unrealistic expectations.

B) It will produce business leaders of a uniform style.

C) It focuses on theory rather than on practical skills.

D) It stresses competition rather than cooperation.

59. What aspect of diversity does Valerie Gauthier think is most important?

A) Age and educational background. B) Social and professional experience.

C) Attitude and approach to business. D) Ethnic origin and gender.

60. What applicants does the author think MBA programmers should consider recruiting?

A) Applicants with prior experience in business companies.

B) Applicants with sound knowledge in math and statistics.

C) Applicants from outside the traditional sectors.

D) Applicants from less developed regions and areas.

61. What does Manna say about the current management style?

A) It is eradicating the tough aspects of management.

B) It encourages male and female executives to work side by side.

- C) It adopts the bully-boy chief executive model.
- D) It is shifting towards more collaborative models.

2011 年 12 月

Section B

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Passage One

Questions 52 to 56 are based on the following passage.

What's the one word of advice a well-meaning professional would give to a recent college graduate? China! India! Brazil! How about trade!

When the Commerce Department reported last week that the trade deficit in June approached \$50 billion, it set off a new round of economic doom saying. Imports, which soared to \$200.3 billion in the month, are subtracted in the calculation of gross domestic product. The larger the trade deficit, the smaller the GDP. Should such imbalances continue, pessimists say, they could contribute to slower growth.

But there's another way of looking at the trade data. Over the past two years, the figures on imports and exports seem not to signal a double-dip recession - a renewed decline in the broad level of economic activity in the United States - but an economic expansion.

The rising volume of trade - more goods and services shuttling in and out of the United States - is good news for many sectors. Companies engaged in shipping, trucking, rail freight, delivery, and logistics(物流) have all been reporting better than expected results. The rising numbers signify growing vitality in foreign markets - when we import more stuff, it puts more cash in the hands of people around the world, and U.S. exports are rising because more foreigners have the ability to buy the things we produce and market. The rising tide of trade is also good news for people who work in trade-sensitive businesses, especially those that produce commodities for which global demand sets the price - agricultural goods, mining, metals, oil.

And while exports always seem to lag, U.S. companies are becoming more involved in the global economy with each passing month. General Motors sells as many cars in China as in America each month. While that may not do much for imports, it does help GM's balance sheet - and hence makes the jobs of U.S.-based executives more stable.

One great challenge for the U.S. economy is slack domestic consumer demand. Americans are paying down debt, saving more, and spending more carefully. That's to be expected, given what we've been through. But there's a bigger challenge. Can U.S.-based businesses, large and small, figure out how to get a piece of growing global demand? Unless you want to pick up and move to India, or Brazil, or China, the best way to do that is through trade. It may seem obvious, but it's no longer enough simply to do business with our friends

and neighbors here at home.

Companies and individuals who don't have a strategy to export more, or to get more involved in foreign markets, or to play a role in global trade, are shutting themselves out of the lion's share of economic opportunity in our world.

52. How do pessimists interpret the U.S. trade deficit in June?

- A) It reflects Americans' preference for imported goods.
- B) It signifies a change in American economic structure.
- C) It is the result of America's growing focus on domestic market.
- D) It could lead to slower growth of the national economy.

53. What does the author say about the trade data of the past two years?

- A) It indicates that economic activities in the U.S. have increased.
- B) It shows that U.S. economy is slipping further into recession.
- C) It signals decreasing domestic demand for goods and services.
- D) It reflects the fluctuations in the international market.

54. Who particularly benefit from the rising volume of trade?

- A) People who have expertise in international trade.
- B) Consumers who favor imported goods and services.
- C) Producers of agricultural goods and raw materials.
- D) Retailers dealing in foreign goods and services.

55. What is one of the challenges facing the American economy?

- A) Competition from overseas. B) People's reluctance to spend.
- C) Slack trade activities. D) Decreasing productivity.

56. What is the author's advice to U.S. companies and individuals?

- A) To import more cheap goods from developing countries.
- B) To move their companies to where labor is cheaper.
- C) To increase their market share overseas.
- D) To be alert to fluctuations in foreign markets.

Passage Two

Questions 57 to 61 are based on the following passage.

A recurring criticism of the UK's university sector is its perceived weakness in translating new knowledge into new products and services.

Recently, the UK National Stem Cell Network warned the UK could lose its place among the world leaders in stem cell research unless adequate funding and legislation could be assured. We should take this concern seriously as universities are key in the national innovation system.

However, we do have to challenge the unthinking complaint that the sector does not do enough in taking ideas to market. The most recent comparative data on the performance of universities and research institutions in Australia, Canada, USA and UK shows that, from a relatively weak starting position, the UK now leads on many indicators of commercialisation activity.

When viewed at the national level, the policy interventions of the past decade have

helped transform the performance of UK universities. Evidence suggests the UK's position is much stronger than in the recent past and is still showing improvement. But national data masks the very large variation in the performance of individual universities. The evidence shows that a large number of universities have fallen off the back of the pack, a few perform strongly and the rest chase the leaders.

This type of uneven distribution is not peculiar to the UK and is mirrored across other economies. In the UK, research is concentrated: less than 25% of universities receive 75% of the research funding. These same universities are also the institutions producing the greatest share of PhD graduates, science citations, patents and licence income. The effect of policies generating long-term resource concentration has also created a distinctive set of universities which are research-led and commercially active. It seems clear that the concentration of research and commercialisation work creates differences between universities.

The core objective for universities which are research-led must be to maximise the impact of their research efforts. These universities should be generating the widest range of social, economic and environmental benefits. In return for the scale of investment, they should share their expertise in order to build greater confidence in the sector.

Part of the economic recovery of the UK will be driven by the next generation of research commercialisation spilling out of our universities. There are three dozen universities in the UK which are actively engaged in advanced research training and commercialisation work.

If there was a greater coordination of technology transfer offices within regions and a simultaneous investment in the scale and functions of our graduate schools, universities could, and should, play a key role in positioning the UK for the next growth cycle.

57. What does the author think of UK universities in terms of commercialisation?

- A) They fail to convert knowledge into money.
- B) They do not regard it as their responsibility.
- C) They still have a place among the world leaders.
- D) They have lost their leading position in many ways.

58. What does the author say about the national data on UK universities' performance in commercialisation?

- A) It masks the fatal weaknesses of government policy.
- B) It does not rank UK universities in a scientific way.
- C) It does not reflect the differences among universities.
- D) It indicates their ineffective use of government resources.

59. We can infer from Paragraph 5 that "policy interventions" (Line 1, Para. 4) refers to _____.

- A) government aid to non-research-oriented universities
- B) compulsory cooperation between universities and industries
- C) fair distribution of funding for universities and research institutions
- D) concentration of resources in a limited number of universities

60. What does the author suggest research-led universities do?

- A) Publicise their research to win international recognition.
- B) Fully utilise their research to benefit all sectors of society.
- C) Generously share their facilities with those short of funds.

D) Spread their influence among top research institutions.

61. How can the university sector play a key role in the UK's economic growth?

A) By establishing more regional technology transfer offices.

B) By asking the government to invest in technology transfer research.

C) By promoting technology transfer and graduate school education.

D) By increasing the efficiency of technology transfer agencies.

2012 年 6 月

Section B

Directions: There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on Answer Sheet 2 with a single line through the centre.

Passage One

Questions 52 to 56 are based on the following passage.

As anyone who has tried to lose weight knows, realistic goal-setting generally produces the best results. That's partially because it appears people who set realistic goals actually work more efficiently, and exert more effort, to achieve those goals.

What's far less understood by scientists, however, are the potentially harmful effects of goal-setting.

Newspapers relay daily accounts of goal-setting prevalent in industries and businesses up and down both Wall Street and Main Street, yet there has been surprisingly little research on how the long-trumpeted practice of setting goals may have contributed to the current economic crisis, and unethical(不道德的) behavior in general.

"Goals are widely used and promoted as having really beneficial effects. And yet, the same motivation that can push people to exert more effort in a constructive way could also motivate people to be more likely to engage in unethical behaviors," says Maurice Schweitzer, an associate professor at Penn's Wharton School.

"It turns out there's no economic benefit to just having a goal--you just get a psychological benefit" Schweitzer says. "But in many cases, goals have economic rewards that make them more powerful."

A prime example Schweitzer and his colleagues cite is the 2004 collapse of energy-trading giant Enron, where managers used financial incentives to motivate salesmen to meet specific revenue goals. The problem, Schweitzer says, is the actual trades were not profitable.

Other studies have shown that saddling employees with unrealistic goals can compel them to lie, cheat or steal. Such was the case in the early 1990s when Sears imposed a sales quota on its auto repair staff. It prompted employees to overcharge for work and to complete unnecessary repairs on a companywide basis.

Schweitzer concedes his research runs counter to a very large body of literature that commends the many benefits of goal-setting. Advocates of the practice have taken issue with his team's use of such evidence as news accounts to support his conclusion that goal-setting is widely over-prescribed

In a rebuttal(反驳) paper, Dr. Edwin Locke writes: "Goal-setting is not going away.

Organizations cannot thrive without being focused on their desired end results any more than an individual can thrive without goals to provide a sense of purpose."

But Schweitzer contends the "mounting causal evidence" linking goal-setting and harmful behavior should be studied to help spotlight issues that merit caution and further investigation. "Even a few negative effects could be so large that they outweigh many positive effects," he says.

"Goal-setting does help coordinate and motivate people. My idea would be to combine that with careful oversight, a strong organizational culture, and make sure the goals that you use are going to be constructive and not significantly harm the organization," Schweitzer says.

52. What message does the author try to convey about goal-setting?

- A) Its negative effects have long been neglected.
- B) The goal increase people's work efficiency.
- C) Its role has been largely underestimated.
- D) The goals most people set are unrealistic.

53. What does Maurice Schweitzer want to show by citing the example of Enron?

- A) Setting realistic goals can turn a failing business into success.
- B) Businesses are less likely to succeed without setting realistic goals.
- C) Financial incentives ensure companies meet specific revenue goals.
- D) Goals with financial rewards have strong motivational power.

54. How did Sears' goal-setting affect its employees?

- A) They were obliged to work more hours to increase their sales.
- B) They competed with one another to attract more customers.
- C) They resorted to unethical practice to meet their sales quota.
- D) They improved their customer service on a companywide basis.

55. What do advocates of goal-setting think of Schweitzer's research?

- A) Its findings are not of much practical value.
- B) It exaggerates the side effects of goal-setting.
- C) Its conclusion is not based on solid scientific evidence.
- D) It runs counter to the existing literature on the subject.

56. What is Schweitzer's contention against Edwin Locke?

- A) The link between goal-setting and harmful behavior deserves further study.
- B) Goal-setting has become too deep-rooted in corporate culture.
- C) The positive effects of goal-setting outweigh its negative effects.
- D) Studying goal-setting can throw more light on successful business practices.

Passage Two

Questions 57 to 61 are based on the following passage.

For most of the 20th century, Asia asked itself what it could learn from the modern, innovating West. Now the question must be reversed. What can the West's overly indebted and sluggish(经济滞长的) nations learn from a flourishing Asia?

Just a few decades ago, Asia's two giants were stagnating(停滞不前) under faulty

economic ideologies. However, once China began embracing free-market reforms in the 1980s, followed by India in the 1990s, both countries achieved rapid growth. Crucially, as they opened up their markets, they balanced market economy with sensible government direction. As the Indian economist Amartya Sen has wisely said, "The invisible hand of the market has often relied heavily on the visible hand of government."

Contrast this middle path with America and Europe, which have each gone ideologically over-board in their own ways. Since the 1980s, America has been increasingly clinging to the ideology of uncontrolled free markets and dismissing the role of government---following Ronald Reagan's idea that "government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem. "Of course, when the markets came crashing down in 2007, it was decisive government intervention that saved the day. Despite this fact, many Americans are still strongly opposed to "big government."

If Americans could only free themselves from their antigovernment doctrine, they would begin to see that the America's problems are not insoluble. A few sensible federal measures could put the country back on the right path. A simple consumption tax of, say, 5% would significantly reduce the country's huge government deficit without damaging productivity. A small gasoline tax would help free America from its dependence on oil imports and create incentives for green energy development. In the same way, a significant reduction of wasteful agricultural subsidies could also lower the deficit. But in order to take advantage of these common-sense solutions, Americans will have to put aside their own attachment to the idea of smaller government and less regulation. American politicians will have to develop the courage to follow what is taught in all American public-policy schools: that there are good taxes and bad taxes. Asian countries have embraced this wisdom, and have built sound long-term fiscal(财政的) policies as a result.

Meanwhile, Europe has fallen prey to a different ideological trap: the belief that European governments would always have infinite resources and could continue borrowing as if there were no tomorrow. Unlike the Americans, who felt that the markets knew best, the Europeans failed to anticipate how the markets would react to their endless borrowing. Today, the European Union is creating a \$580 billion fund to ward off sovereign collapse. This will buy the EU time, but it will not solve the bloc's larger problem.

57. What has contributed to the rapid economic growth in China and India?

- A) Copying western-style economic behavior.
- B) Heavy reliance on the hand of government.
- C) Timely reform of government at all levels.
- D) Free market plus government intervention.

58. What does Ronald Reagan mean by saying "government is the problem" (line4, Para. 3)?

- A) Many social evils are caused by wrong government policies.
- B) Many social problems arise from government's inefficiency.
- C) Government action is key to solving economic problems.
- D) Government regulation hinders economic development.

59. What stopped the American economy from collapsing in 2007?

- A) Self-regulatory repair mechanisms of the free market.
- B) Cooperation between the government and businesses.
- C) Abandonment of big government by the public.

D) Effective measures adopted by the government.

60. What is the author's suggestion to the American public in face of the public government deficit?

A) They urge the government to revise its existing public policies.

B) They develop green energy to avoid dependence on oil import.

C) They give up the idea of smaller government and less regulation.

D) They put up with the inevitable sharp increase of different taxes.

61. What's the problem with the European Union?

A) Conservative ideology. B) Shrinking market. C) Lack of resources. D) Excessive borrowing.

2012 年 12 月

第一套

Section B

Directions: There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on Answer Sheet 2 with a single line through the centre.

Passage One

Questions 52 to 56 are based on the following passage.

Amid all the job losses, there's one category of worker that the economic disruption has been good for: nonhumans.

From self-service checkout lines at the supermarket to industrial robots armed with saws and taught to carve up animal bodies in slaughter-houses, these ever-more-intelligent machines are now not just assisting workers but actually kicking them out of their jobs.

Automation isn't just affecting factory workers, either. Some law firms now use artificial intelligence software to scan and read mountains of legal documents, work that previously was performed by highly-paid human lawyers.

"Robots continue to have an impact on blue-collar jobs, and white-collar jobs are under attack by microprocessors," says economics professor Edward Leamer. The recession permanently wiped out 2.5 million jobs. U.S. gross domestic product has climbed back to pre-recession levels, meaning we're producing as much as before, only with 6% fewer workers. To be sure, robotics are not the only job killers out there, with outsourcing(外包) stealing far more jobs than automation.

Jeff Burnstein, president of the Robotics Industry Association, argues that robots actually save U.S. jobs. His logic: companies that embrace automation might use fewer workers, but that's still better than firing everyone and moving the work overseas.

It's not that robots are cheaper than humans, though often they are. It's that they're better. "In some cases the quality requirements are so exacting that even if you wanted to have a human do the job, you couldn't," Burnstein says.

Same goes for surgeons, who're using robotic systems to perform an ever-growing list of operations—not because the machines save money but because, thanks to the greater precision of robots, the patients recover in less time and have fewer complications, says Dr. Myriam Curet.

Surgeons may survive the robot invasion, but others at the hospital might not be so lucky, as iRobot, maker of the Roomba, a robot vacuum cleaner, has been showing off Ava,

which could be used as a messenger in a hospital. And once you're home, recovering, Ava could let you talk to your doctor, so there's no need to send someone to your house. That "mobile telepresence" could be useful at the office. If you're away on a trip, you can still attend a meeting. Just connect via videoconferencing software, so your face appears on Ava's screen.

Is any job safe? I was hoping to say "journalist," but researchers are already developing software that can gather facts and write a news story. Which means that a few years from now, a robot could be writing this column. And who will read it? Well, there might be a lot of us hanging around with lots of free time on our hands.

52. What do we learn from the first few paragraphs?

- A) The over-use of robots has done damage to American economy.
- B) It is hard for robots to replace humans in highly professional work.
- C) Artificial intelligence is key to future technological innovations.
- D) The robotic industry has benefited from the economic recession.

53. What caused the greatest loss of jobs in America?

- A) Using microprocessors extensively.
- B) Moving production to other countries.
- C) The bankruptcy of many companies.
- D) The invasion of migrant workers.

54. What does Jeff Burnstein say about robots?

- A) They help companies to revive.
- B) They are cheaper than humans.
- C) They prevent job losses in a way.
- D) They compete with human workers.

55. Why are robotic systems replacing surgeons in more and more operations according to Dr. Myriam Curet?

- A) They save lots of money for the patients.
- B) They beat humans in precision.
- C) They take less time to perform a surgery.
- D) They make operations less painful.

56. What does the author imply about robotics?

- A) It will greatly enrich literary creation.
- B) It will start a new technological revolution.
- C) It will revolutionize scientific research.
- D) It will be applied in any field imaginable.

Passage Two

Questions 57 to 61 are based on the following passage.

You've now heard it so many times, you can probably repeat it in your sleep. President Obama will no doubt make the point publicly when he gets to Beijing: the Chinese need to consume more; they need - believe it or not - to become more like Americans, for the sake of the global economy.

And it's all true. But the other side of that equation is that the U.S. needs to save more. For the moment, American households actually are doing so. After the personal-savings rate dipped to zero in 2005, the shock of the economic crisis last year prompted people to snap shut their wallets.

In China, the household-savings rate exceeds 20%. It is partly for policy reasons. As we've seen, wage earners are expected to care for not only their children but their aging parents. And there is, to date, only the flimsiest(脆弱的) of publicly-funded health care and

pension systems, which increases incentives for individuals to save while they are working. But China is a society that has long esteemed personal financial prudence(谨慎). There is no chance that will change anytime soon, even if the government creates a better social safety net and successfully encourages greater consumer spending.

Why does the U.S. need to learn a little frugality(节俭)? Because healthy savings rates are one of the surest indicators of a country's long-term financial health. High savings lead, over time, to increased investment, which in turn generates productivity gains, innovation and job growth. In short, savings are the seed corn of a good economic harvest.

The U.S. government thus needs to act as well. By running constant deficits, it is dis-saving, even as households save more. Peter Orszag, Obama's Budget Director, recently called the U.S. budget deficits unsustainable and he's right. To date, the U.S. has seemed unable to see the consequences of spending so much more than is taken in. That needs to change. And though Hu Jintao and the rest of the Chinese leadership aren't inclined to lecture visiting Presidents, he might gently hint that Beijing is getting a little nervous about the value of the dollar - which has fallen 15% since March, in large part because of increasing fears that America's debt load is becoming unmanageable.

That's what happens when you're the world's biggest creditor: you get to drop hints like that, which would be enough by themselves to create international economic chaos if they were ever leaked. (Every time any official in Beijing deliberates publicly about seeking an alternative to the U.S. dollar for the \$2.1 trillion China holds in reserve, currency traders have a heart attack.) If Americans saved more and spent less, consistently over time, they wouldn't have to worry about all that.

57. How did the economic crisis affect Americans?

- A) They had to tighten their belts. B) Their bank savings rate dropped to zero.
- C) Their leadership in the global economy was shaken.
- D) They became concerned about China's financial policy.

58. What should be done to encourage Chinese people to consume?

- A) Changing their traditional way of life. B) Providing fewer incentives for saving.
- C) Improving China's social security system. D) Cutting down the expenses on child-rearing.

59. What does the author mean by saying "savings are the seed corn of a good economic harvest" (Line 4, Para. 4)?

- A) The more one saves, the more returns one will reap.
- B) A country's economy hinges on its savings policy.
- C) Those who keep saving will live an easy life in the end.
- D) A healthy savings rate promotes economic prosperity.

60. In what circumstances do currency traders become scared?

- A) When Beijing allows its currency exchange rates to float.
- B) When China starts to reduce its current foreign reserves.
- C) When China talks about switching its dollar reserves to other currencies.
- D) When Beijing mentions in public the huge debts America owes China.

61. What is the author's purpose of writing the passage?

- A) To urge the American government to cut deficits.
- B) To encourage Chinese people to spend more.
- C) To tell Americans not to worry about their economy.

D) To promote understanding between China and America.

第二套

Section B

Directions: There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on Answer Sheet 2 with a single line through the centre.

Passage One

Questions 52 to 56 are based on the following passage.

Who's poor in America? That's a question hard to answer. Hard because there's no conclusive definition of poverty. Low income matters, though how low is unclear. Poverty is also a state of mind that fosters self-defeating behavior-bad work habits, family breakdowns, and addictions. Finally, poverty results from bad luck: accidents, job losses, disability.

Despite poverty's messiness, we've measured progress against it by a single statistic: the federal poverty line. By this measure, we haven't made much progress. But the apparent lack of progress is misleading for two reasons.

First, it ignores immigration. Many immigrants are poor and low-skilled. They add to the poor. From 1989 to 2007, about three quarters of the increase in the poverty population occurred among Hispanics(西班牙裔美国人) - mostly immigrants and their children.

Second, the poor's material well-being has improved. The official poverty measure obscures this by counting only pre-tax cash income and ignoring other sources of support, including food stamps and housing subsidies. Although many poor live from hand to mouth, they've participated in rising living standards. In 2005, 91% had microwaves. 79% air-conditioning, and 48% cell phones.

The existing poverty line could be improved by adding some income sources and subtracting some expenses. Unfortunately, the administration's proposal for a "supplemental poverty measure" in 2011 goes beyond that. The new poverty number would compound public confusion. It also raises questions about whether the statistic is tailored to favor a political agenda. The "supplemental measure" ties the poverty threshold to what the poorest third of Americans spend on food, housing, clothing, and utilities. The actual threshold will probably be higher than today's poverty line. Many Americans would find this weird: people get richer, but "poverty" stays stuck.

What produces this outcome is a different view of poverty. The present concept is an absolute one: the poverty threshold reflects the amount estimated to meet basic needs. By contrast, the new measure embraces a relative notion of poverty: people are automatically poor if they're a given distance from the top, even if their incomes are increasing.

The new indicator is a "propaganda device" to promote income redistribution by showing that poverty is stubborn or increasing. The Census Bureau has estimated statistics similar to the administration's proposal. In 2008, the traditional poverty rate was 13.2%; estimates of the new statistic range up to 17%. The new poverty statistic exceeds the old, and the gap grows larger over time.

As senator Daniel Moynihan said, the administration is defining poverty up. It's legitimate to debate how much we should aid the poor or reduce economic inequality. But the debate should not be swayed by misleading statistics that few Americans could possibly understand. Government statistics should strive for political neutrality(中立). This one fails.

52. What is the main idea of the first paragraph?

- A) Poverty is very often defined as a state of mind.
- B) Poverty is a problem hard to tackle in America.
- C) Bad work habits and bad luck lead to poverty.
- D) There is no consensus on the concept of poverty.

53. What does the author say about the poor in America?

- A) Their living standards have actually improved.
- B) Most of them are immigrants and their descendants.
- C) Their chances of rising above the poverty line are slim.
- D) Most of them rely on government subsidies for survival.

54. What does the author think of the administration's proposal for a "supplemental poverty measure"?

- A) It is intended to further help the poor. B) It is made to serve political purposes.
- C) It is a positive response to changed circumstances.
- D) It is an attempt to combat the economic recession.

55. What is characteristic of the new measure of poverty?

- A) It defines poverty by the gap between the rich and the poor.
- B) It raises the threshold for the poor to get welfare benefits.
- C) It is more accurate and scientific in terms of statistics.
- D) It truly reflects the practical needs of the poor.

56. What does the author want to say by quoting Daniel Moynihan?

- A) Economic equality is but an empty dream. B) Political neutrality can never be achieved.
- C) The administration's statistics are biased. D) The debate over poverty will get nowhere.

Passage Two

Questions 57 to 61 are based on the following passage.

Eleven summers ago I was sent to a management program at the Wharton School to be prepared for bigger things. Along with lectures on finance and entrepreneurship and the like, the program included a delightfully out-of-place session with Al Filreis, an English professor at the University of Pennsylvania, on poetry.

For three hours he talked us through "The Red Wheelbarrow" and "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening." The experience – especially when contrasted with the horrible prose of

our other assigned reading - sent me fleeing to the campus bookstore, where I resumed a long-interrupted romance with meter and rhyme(韵).

Professor Filreis says that he is "a little shocked" at how intensely his Wharton students respond to this unexpected deviation from the businesslike, not just as a relief but as a kind of stimulus. Many write afterward asking him to recommend books of poetry. Especially now, "The grim economy seems to make the participants keener than ever to think 'out of the box' in the way poetry encourages," he told me.

Which brings me to Congress, an institution stuck deeper inside the box than just about any other these days. You have probably heard that up on Capitol Hill(美国国会山), they're very big on prayer breakfasts, where members gather over scrambled eggs and ask God for wisdom. You can judge from the agonizing debt spectacle we've watched this summer how well that's working. Well, maybe it's time to add some poetry readings to the agenda.

I'm not suggesting that poetry will guide our legislators to wisdom any more than prayer has. Just that it might make them a little more human. Poetry is no substitute for courage or competence, but properly applied, it is a challenge to self-certainty, which we currently have in excess. Poetry serves as a spur to creative thinking, a reproach to dogma and habit, a remedy to the current fashion for pledge signing.

The poet Shelley, in defense of poetry nearly two centuries ago, wrote, "A man, to be greatly good, must imagine intensely and comprehensively; he must put himself in the place of another and of many others; the pains and pleasures of his species must become his own." Shelley concludes that essay by calling poets "the unacknowledged legislators of the world, "because they bring imagination to the realm of "reasoners and mechanists."

The relevance of poetry was declared more concisely in five lines from the love poem "Asphodel. That Greeny Flower," by William Carlos Williams: It is difficult to get the news from poems yet men die miserably every day for lack of what is found there.

57. Why did the author participate in the Wharton School management program?

- A) He was a passionate lover of classical poetry.
- B) He was being trained for an important position.
- C) He had just been promoted to top management.
- D) He was interested in finance and entrepreneurship.

58. What did the author think of Professor Filreis's poetry session?

- A) It diverted students' attention from the assigned reading
- B) It made the management program appear romantic.
- C) It was extremely appealing to the students.
- D) It pulled students out of prose reading sessions.

59. What was the impact of the poetry session on the program participants according to Professor Filreis?

- A) It inspired them to view things from broader perspectives.
- B) It led them to think poetry indispensable to management.
- C) It helped them develop a keener interest in literature.
- D) It encouraged them to embark on a political career.

60. What does the author think of Capitol Hill's prayer over breakfast?

- A) It is a ritual that has lost its original meaning.
- B) It doesn't really help solve the economic problems.

- C) It provides inspiration as poetry reading does.
D) It helps people turn away from the debt spectacle.
61. What do we learn from Shelley's essay?
- A) Poetry can relieve people of pains and sufferings.
B) It takes poetic imagination to become a legislator.
C) Legislators should win public acknowledgement.
D) It is important to be imaginative and sympathetic.

第三套

Section B

Directions: There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on Answer Sheet 2 with a single line through the centre.

Passage One

Questions 52 to 56 are based on the following passage.

Is 20th-century capitalism failing 21st-century society? Members of the global elite debated that unusual question at the annual World Economic Forum.

It is encouraging that more than three years since the global financial crisis, a belated(迟到的) process of soul-searching has begun in search of the right lessons to learn from it.

There is a great difference, however, between being willing to talk about an issue and being ready to act.

It is a difference between those who still believe that all governments can do is get out of the way and those who believe there is a real role for governments in first reviving our economies, and then setting the right rules for future success.

If we learned anything from the 1930s, it was that governments cannot shrug their shoulders and watch as their own people are being laid off.

Nor should we forget the causes of the current growth and debt crisis as we seek to put our economies on a more sustainable footing.

Both the United States and Britain suffered because their economies were overly reliant on the financial sector's artificial profits; living standards for the many worsened while the economic rewards went to the top 1 percent; a capitalist model encouraged short-term decision-making oriented toward quarterly profits rather than long-term health; and interest groups like giant banks were deemed too big to fail or too powerful to challenge. We need to recognize that the trickle-down promise (benefits given to the rich will eventually be passed on to the poor) of conservative theorists has turned into a gravity-defying reality in which wealth has flowed upward disproportionately and, too often, undeservedly. To

address the problem requires fresh thinking from governments about how people train for their working lives and what a living wage should be.

Governments can set better – not necessarily more – rules to encourage productive businesses that make and sell real products and services. We need rules that discourage the predatory(掠夺的) behavior of those seeking the fast buck through hostile takeovers and asset-stripping that do not have the interests of the shareholders, the employees or the economy at heart. And governments must remember they are elected to serve the people, not the powerful lobbies who can pay for access or influence. Too often the real enemies of market capitalism are some of the leading beneficiaries of the current model, which favors big monopolies and consumer exploitation. I believe that changing the rules of capitalism will require a change in what citizens expect and ask of politics. The question is not so much whether 20th-century capitalism is failing 21st-century society but whether politics can rise to the challenge of changing a flawed economic model.

52. What important lesson could be drawn from the 1930s?

- A) The government should play a role in reviving the economy.
- B) The government should provide subsidies for the unemployed.
- C) The government should not ignore the role of economists in the nation's economy.
- D) The government should not brush aside ideas from the World Economic Forum.

53. What is one of the factors contributing to the recent financial crisis in the United States and Britain?

- A) Their business giants' neglect of attending to long-term planning.
- B) Their governments' unnecessary intervention in economic affairs.
- C) Their governments failing to provide assistance for the poor and needy.
- D) Their economies relying heavily on the operations of the financial sector.

54. What does the author say about the so-called trickle-down promise?

- A) It defies conventional wisdom. B) It has failed to materialize.
- C) It will benefit both the rich and the poor once realized.
- D) It will prove fatal to capitalist economy once broken.

55. What rules does the author say governments should set to guarantee sustainable economic development?

- A) Rules that help businesses to expand fast but in a healthy way.
- B) Rules that discourage businesses from making quick money.
- C) Rules that encourage businesses to make and sell real products and services.
- D) Rules that ensure the increase of shareholders' dividends and employees' pay.

56. What should the government do about the current economy according to the author?

- A) Eliminate the real enemies of market capitalism.
- B) Undertake to repair the flaws in the economic model.
- C) Prevent the lobbies from exerting too much influence.
- D) Diminish the role politics plays in national economy.

Passage Two

Questions 57 to 61 are based on the following passage.

Women are half the population but only 15% of board members at big American firms, and 10% in Europe. Companies that fish in only half the talent pool will lose out to those that cast their net more widely. There is also evidence that mixed boards make better decisions.

Mindful of this, European countries are passing laws that would force companies to promote more women to the executive suite. A new French law requires listed firms to reserve 40% of board seats for women by 2017. Norway and Spain have similar laws; Germany is considering one. The European Parliament declared this month that such quotas should be applied throughout the European Union.

There are two main arguments for compulsory quotas. One is that the men who dominate corporate boards are hopelessly sexist: they promote people like themselves and ignore any female talent.

The second argument is more subtle. Talented executives need mentors(导师) to help them climb the ladder. Male directors mentor young men but are reluctant to get friendly with young women, lest the relationship be misinterpreted. Quotas will break this vicious cycle by putting lots of women at the top, who can then offer their sisters a leg up.

There may be something in both arguments, but in most rich countries sexism is no longer the main obstacle to women's careers. Children are. Most women take career breaks to look after them. Many cares for elderly relatives, too. One study found that two-thirds of American women had at some point switched from full-time work to part-time or flexible time to balance work and family. Such choices make it harder for women to gain the experience necessary to make it to the very top.

What is more, big companies are increasingly global. Many want a boss who has worked in more than one country. Such foreign postings disrupt families; many women turn them down. And many, anticipating a career break at some point in the future, enter fields where their skills will not quickly become outdated, such as law or human resources. Some lawyers make good chief executives. But firms often want people with financial or operational experience for the top jobs, and these fields are still male-dominated.

Quotas are too blunt a tool for such a tangled problem. The women companies are compelled to put on boards are unlikely to be as useful as those they place there voluntarily. Quotas force firms either to pad their boards with token non-executive directors, or to allocate real power on the basis of sex rather than merit. Enforcing quotas for women has led to large numbers of inexperienced women being appointed to boards, and seriously damaged those firms' performance.

57. What will happen to a company if men dominate its executive board?

- A) Its talent pool will dry out sooner.
- B) Its competitiveness will be weakened.
- C) Its women employees will complain.
- D) It is bound to make unwise decisions.

58. What seems to prevent women from becoming board members apart from sexism?

- A) Many of them lack the courage to face the challenge in the board room.
- B) Male directors are afraid of women's potential threat to their authority.
- C) Few of them have the training and qualifications needed for executive duties.

D) Male directors refrain from giving them guidance to avoid misunderstanding.

59. What does the author say is the real barrier to women's careers?

A) An apparent lack of necessary legislation. B) Fierce competition from male colleagues.

C) The burden of taking care of their family. D) The widespread sexism in the workplace.

60. Why do many women choose to enter such fields as law or human resources?

A) They allow women career breaks if need be.

B) They can bring a woman's talent into full play.

C) They offer high salaries and attractive benefits.

D) They pave the way for women to become CEOs.

61. What does the author think of the practice of enforcing quotas for women executives?

A) It is a simple solution to a tangled problem. B) It is an effective tool to combat sexism.

C) It helps fill the executive board with talents. D) It adversely affects a firm's performance.

2013 年 6 月

第一套

Section B

Directions: There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on Answer Sheet 2 with a single line through the centre.

Passage One

Questions 52 to 56 are based on the following passage.

The report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics was just as gloomy as anticipated. Unemployment in January jumped to a 16-year high of 7.6 percent, as 598000 jobs were slashed from US payrolls in the worst single-month decline since December, 1974. With 1.8 million jobs lost in the last three months, there is urgent desire to boost the economy as quickly as possible. But Washington would do well to take a deep breath before reacting to the grim numbers.

Collectively, we rely on the unemployment figures and other statistics to frame our sense of reality. They are a vital part of an array of data that we use to assess if we're doing well or doing badly, and that in turn shapes government policies and corporate budgets and personal spending decisions. The problem is that the statistics aren't an objective measure of reality; they are simply a best approximation. Directionally, they capture the trends, but the idea that we know precisely how many are unemployed is a myth. That makes finding a solution all the more difficult.

First, there is the way the data is assembled. The official unemployment rate is the product of a telephone survey of about 60000 homes. There is another survey, sometimes referred to as the "payroll survey," that assesses 400000 businesses based on their reported payrolls. Both surveys have problems. The payroll survey can easily double-count someone: if you are one person with two jobs, you show up as two workers. The payroll survey also doesn't capture the number of self-employed, and so says little about how many people are generating an independent income.

The household survey has a larger problem. When asked straightforwardly, people tend to lie or shade the truth when the subject is sex, money or employment. If you get a call and are asked if you're employed, and you say yes, you're employed. If you say no, however, it may surprise you to learn that you are only unemployed if you've been actively looking for work in the past four weeks; otherwise, you are "marginally attached to the labor force" and not actually unemployed.

The urge to quantify is embedded in our society. But the idea that statisticians can then capture an objective reality isn't just impossible. It also leads to serious misjudgments. Democrats and Republicans can and will take sides on a number of issues, but a more crucial concern is that both are basing major policy decisions on guesstimates rather than looking at the vast wealth of raw data with a critical eye and an open mind.

52. What do we learn from the first paragraph?

- A) The US economic situation is going from bad to worse.
- B) Washington is taking drastic measures to provide more jobs.
- C) The US government is slashing more jobs from its payrolls.
- D) The recent economic crisis has taken the US by surprise.

53. What does the author think of the unemployment figures and other statistics?

- A) They form a solid basis for policy making.
- B) They represent the current situation.
- C) They signal future economic trends.
- D) They do not fully reflect the reality.

54. One problem with the payroll survey is that _____.

- A) it does not include all the businesses
- B) it fails to count in the self-employed
- C) it magnifies the number of the jobless
- D) it does not treat all companies equally

55. The household survey can be faulty in that _____.

- A) people tend to lie when talking on the phone
- B) not everybody is willing or ready to respond
- C) some people won't provide truthful information
- D) the definition of unemployment is too broad

56. At the end of the passage, the author suggests that _____.

- A) statisticians improve their data assembling methods
- B) decision makers view the statistics with a critical eye
- C) politicians listen more before making policy decisions
- D) Democrats and Republicans cooperate on crucial issues

Passage Two

Questions 57 to 62 are based on the following passage.

At some point in 2008, someone, probably in either Asia or Africa, made the decision to move from the countryside to the city. This nameless person pushed the human race over a historic threshold, for it was in that year that mankind became, for the first time in its history, a predominantly urban species.

It is a trend that shows no sign of slowing. Demographers(人口统计学者) reckon that three-quarters of humanity could be city-dwelling by 2050, with most of the increase coming in the fast-growing towns of Asia and Africa. Migrants to cities are attracted by plentiful jobs, access to hospitals and education, and the ability to escape the boredom of a farmer's agricultural life. Those factors are more than enough to make up for the squalor(肮脏), disease and spectacular poverty that those same migrants must often at first endure when they become urban dwellers.

It is the city that inspires the latest book from Peter Smith. His main thesis is that the

buzz of urban life, and the opportunities it offers for co-operation and collaboration, is what attracts people to the city, which in turn makes cities into the engines of art, commerce, science and progress. This is hardly revolutionary, but it is presented in a charming format. Mr. Smith has written a breezy guidebook, with a series of short chapters dedicated to specific aspects of urbanity - parks, say, or the various schemes that have been put forward over the years for building the perfect city. The result is a sort of high-quality, unusually rigorous coffee-table book, designed to be dipped into rather than read from beginning to end.

In the chapter on skyscrapers, for example, Mr. Smith touches on construction methods, the revolutionary invention of the automatic lift, the practicalities of living in the sky and the likelihood that, as cities become more crowded, apartment living will become the norm. But there is also time for brief diversions onto bizarre ground, such as a discussion of the skyscraper index (which holds that a boom in skyscraper construction is a foolproof sign of an imminent recession).

One obvious criticism is that the price of breadth is depth; many of Mr. Smith's essays raise as many questions as they answer. Although that can indeed be frustrating, this is probably the only way to treat so grand a topic. The city is the building block of civilisation and of almost everything people do; a guidebook to the city is really, therefore, a guidebook to how a large and ever-growing chunk of humanity chooses to live. Mr. Smith's book serves as an excellent introduction to a vast subject, and will suggest plenty of further lines of inquiry.

57. In what way is the year 2008 historic?

- A) For the first time in history, urban people outnumbered rural people.
- B) An influential figure decided to move from the countryside to the city.
- C) It is in this year that urbanisation made a start in Asia and Africa.
- D) The population increase in cities reached a new peak in Asia and Africa.

58. What does the author say about urbanisation?

- A) Its impact is not easy to predict. B) Its process will not slow down.
- C) It is a milestone in human progress. D) It aggravates the squalor of cities.

59. How does the author comment on Peter Smith's new book?

- A) It is but an ordinary coffee-table book. B) It is flavoured with humorous stories.
- C) It serves as a guide to arts and commerce. D) It is written in a lively and interesting style.

60. What does the author say in the chapter on skyscrapers?

- A) The automatic lift is indispensable in skyscrapers.
- B) People enjoy living in skyscrapers with a view.
- C) Skyscrapers are a sure sign of a city's prosperity.
- D) Recession closely follows a skyscraper boom.

61. What may be one criticism of Mr. Smith's book?

- A) It does not really touch on anything serious.
- B) It is too long for people to read from cover to cover.
- C) It does not deal with any aspect of city life in depth.
- D) It fails to provide sound advice to city dwellers.

第二套

Section B

Directions: There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on Answer Sheet 2 with a single line through the centre.

Passage One

Questions 52 to 56 are based on the following passage.

"Depression" is more than a serious economic downturn. What distinguishes a depression from a harsh recession is paralyzing fear - fear of the unknown so great that it causes consumers, businesses, and investors to retreat and panic. They save up cash and desperately cut spending. They sell stocks and other assets. A shattering loss of confidence inspires behavior that overwhelms the normal self-correcting mechanisms that usually prevent a recession from becoming deep and prolonged: a depression.

Comparing 1929 with 2007-09, Christina Romer, the head of President Obama's Council of Economic Advisers, finds the initial blow to confidence far greater now than then. True, stock prices fell a third from September to December 1929, but fewer Americans then owned stocks. Moreover, home prices barely dropped. From December 1928 to December 1929, total household wealth declined only 3%. By contrast, the loss in household wealth between December 2007 and December 2008 was 17%. Both stocks and homes, more widely held, dropped more. Thus traumatized(受到创伤) the economy might have gone into a free fall ending in depression. Indeed, it did go into free fall. Shoppers refrained from buying cars, appliances, and other big-ticket items. Spending on such "durables" dropped at a 12% annual rate in 2008's third quarter, a 20% rate in the fourth. And businesses shelved investment projects.

That these huge declines didn't lead to depression mainly reflects, as Romer argues, countermeasures taken by the government. Private markets for goods, services, labor, and securities do mostly self-correct, but panic feeds on itself and disarms these stabilizing tendencies. In this situation, only government can protect the economy as a whole, because most individuals and companies are involved in the self-defeating behavior of self-protection. Government's failure to perform this role in the early 1930s transformed recession into depression. Scholars will debate which interventions this time - the Federal Reserve's support of a failing credit system, guarantees of bank debt, Obama's "stimulus" plan and bank "stress test" - counted most in preventing a recurrence. Regardless, all these complex measures had the same psychological purpose: to reassure people that the free fall would stop and, thereby, curb the fear that would perpetuate(使持久) a free fall.

All this improved confidence. But the consumer sentiment index remains weak, and all the rebound has occurred in Americans' evaluation of future economic conditions, not the

present. Unemployment (9.8%) is abysmal(糟透的), the recovery's strength unclear. Here, too, there is an echo from the 1930s. Despite bottoming out in 1933, the Depression didn't end until World War II. Some government policies aided recovery; some hindered it. The good news today is that the bad news is not worse.

52. Why do consumers, businesses and investors retreat and panic in times of depression?

- A) They suffer great losses in stocks, property and other assets.
- B) They find the self-correcting mechanisms dysfunctioning.
- C) They are afraid the normal social order will be paralyzed.
- D) They don't know what is going to happen in the future.

53. What does Christina Romer say about the current economic recession?

- A) Its severity is no match for the Great Depression of 1929.
- B) Its initial blow to confidence far exceeded that of 1929.
- C) It has affected house owners more than stock holders.
- D) It has resulted in a free fall of the prices of commodities.

54. Why didn't the current recession turn into a depression according to Christina Romer?

- A) The government intervened effectively. B) Private markets corrected themselves.
- C) People refrained from buying durables and big-ticket items.
- D) Individuals and companies adopted self-protection measures.

55. What is the chief purpose of all the countermeasures taken?

- A) To create job opportunities. B) To curb the fear of a lasting free fall.
- C) To stimulate domestic consumption. D) To rebuild the credit system.

56. What does the author think of today's economic situation?

- A) It may worsen without further stimulation. B) It will see a rebound sooner or later.
- C) It has not gone from bad to worse. D) It does not give people reason for pessimism.

Passage Two

Questions 57 to 62 are based on the following passage.

"Usually when we walk through the rain forest we hear a soft sound from all the moist leaves and organic debris on the forest floor," says ecologist Daniel Nepstad. "Now we increasingly get rustle and crunch. That's the sound of a dying forest."

Predictions of the collapse of the tropical rain forests have been around for years. Yet until recently the worst forecasts were almost exclusively linked to direct human activity, such as clear-cutting and burning for pastures or farms. Left alone, it was assumed, the world's rain forests would not only flourish but might even rescue us from disaster by absorbing the excess carbon dioxide and other planet-warming greenhouse gases. Now it turns out that may be wishful thinking. Some scientists believe that the rise in carbon levels means that the Amazon and other rain forests in Asia and Africa may go from being assets in the battle against rising temperatures to liabilities. Amazon plants, for instance, hold more than 100 billion metric tons of carbon, equal to 15 years of tailpipe and chimney emissions. If the collapse of the rain forests speeds up dramatically, it could eventually release 3.5-5 billion metric tons of carbon into the atmosphere each year - making forests the leading source of

greenhouse gases.

Uncommonly severe droughts brought on by global climate changes have led to forest-eating wildfires from Australia to Indonesia, but nowhere more acutely than in the Amazon. Some experts say that the rain forest is already at the brink of collapse.

Extreme weather and reckless development are plotting against the rain forest in ways that scientists have never seen. Trees need more water as temperatures rise, but the prolonged droughts have robbed them of moisture, making whole forests easily cleared of trees and turned into farmland. The picture worsens with each round of El Nino, the unusually warm currents in the Pacific Ocean that drive up temperatures and invariably presage(预示) droughts and fires in the rain forest. Runaway fires pour even more carbon into the air, which increases temperatures, starting the whole vicious cycle all over again.

More than paradise lost, a perishing rain forest could trigger a domino effect - sending winds and rains kilometers off course and loading the skies with even greater levels of greenhouse gases - that will be felt far beyond the Amazon basin. In a sense, we are already getting a glimpse of what's to come. Each burning season in the Amazon, fires deliberately set by frontier settlers and developers hurl up almost half a billion metric tons of carbon a year, placing Brazil among the top five contributors to greenhouse gases in the world.

57. We learn from the first paragraph that _____.

- A) dead leaves and tree debris make the same sound
- B) trees that are dying usually give out a soft moan
- C) organic debris echoes the sounds in a rain forest
- D) the sound of a forest signifies its health condition

58. In the second paragraph, the author challenges the view that _____.

- A) the collapse of rain forests is caused by direct human interference
- B) carbon emissions are the leading cause of current global warming
- C) the condition of rain forests has been rapidly deteriorating
- D) rain forests should not be converted into pastures or farms

59. The author argues that the rising carbon levels in rain forests may _____.

- A) turn them into a major source of greenhouse gases
- B) change the weather patterns throughout the world
- C) pose a threat to wildlife
- D) accelerate their collapse

60. What has made it easier to turn some rain forests into farmland?

- A) Rapid rise in carbon levels.
- B) Reckless land development.
- C) Lack of rainfall resulting from global warming.
- D) The unusual warm currents in the Pacific Ocean.

61. What makes Brazil one of the world's top five contributors to greenhouse gases?

- A) The domino effect triggered by the perishing rain forests.
- B) Its practice of burning forests for settlement and development.
- C) The changed patterns of winds and rains in the Amazon area.
- D) Its inability to curb the carbon emissions from industries.

第三套

Section B

Directions: There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on Answer Sheet 2 with a single line through the centre.

Passage One

Questions 52 to 56 are based on the following passage.

In 2011, many shoppers chose to avoid the frantic crowds and do their holiday shopping from the comfort of their computer. Sales at online retailers gained by more than 15%, making it the biggest season ever. But people are also returning those purchases at record rates, up 8% from last year.

What went wrong? Is the lingering shadow of the global financial crisis making it harder to accept extravagant indulgences? Or that people shop more impulsively - and therefore make bad decisions - when online? Both arguments are plausible. However, there is a third factor: a question of touch. We can love the look but, in an online environment, we cannot feel the quality of a texture, the shape of the fit, the fall of a fold or, for that matter, the weight of an earring. And physically interacting with an object makes you more committed to your purchase.

When my most recent book *Brandwashed* was released, I teamed up with a local bookstore to conduct an experiment about the differences between the online and offline shopping experience. I carefully instructed a group of volunteers to promote my book in two different ways. The first was a fairly hands-off approach. Whenever a customer would inquire about my book, the volunteer would take them over to the shelf and point to it. Out of 20 such requests, six customers proceeded with the purchase.

The second option also involved going over to the shelf but, this time, removing the book and then subtly holding onto it for just an extra moment before placing it in the customer's hands. Of the 20 people who were handed the book, 13 ended up buying it. Just physically passing the book showed a big difference in sales. Why? We feel something similar to a sense of ownership when we hold things in our hand. That's why we establish or reestablish connection by greeting strangers and friends with a handshake. In this case, having to then let go of the book after holding it might generate a subtle sense of loss, and motivate us to make the purchase even more.

A recent study also revealed the power of touch, in this case when it came to conventional mail. A deeper and longer-lasting impression of a message was formed when delivered in a letter, as opposed to receiving the same message online. Brain imaging showed that, on touching the paper, the emotional center of the brain was activated, thus forming a stronger bond. The study also indicated that once touch becomes part of the

process, it could translate into a sense of possession. This sense of ownership is simply not part of the equation in the online shopping experience.

52. Why do people prefer shopping online according to the author?

- A) It is more comfortable and convenient.
- B) It saves them a lot of money and time.
- C) It offers them a lot more options and bargains.
- D) It gives them more time to think about their purchase.

53. Why do more customers return their purchases bought online?

- A) They regretted indulging in costly items in the recession.
- B) They changed their mind by the time the goods were delivered.
- C) They had no chance to touch them when shopping online.
- D) They later found the quality of goods below their expectations.

54. What is the purpose of the author's experiment?

- A) To test his hypothesis about online shopping.
- B) To find out people's reaction to his recent book.
- C) To find ways to increase the sale of his new book.
- D) To try different approaches to sales promotion.

55. How might people feel after letting go of something they held?

- A) A sense of disappointment.
- B) More motivated to own it.
- C) A subtle loss of interest.
- D) Less sensitive to its texture.

56. What does brain imaging in a recent study reveal?

- A) Conventional letters contain subtle messages.
- B) A lack of touch is the chief obstacle to e-commerce.
- C) E-mail lacks the potential to activate the brain.
- D) Physical touch helps form a sense of possession.

Passage Two

Questions 57 to 62 are based on the following passage.

Apparently everyone knows that global warming only makes climate more extreme. A hot, dry summer has triggered another flood of such claims. And, while many interests are at work, one of the players that benefits the most from this story are the media: the notion of "extreme" climate simply makes for more compelling news.

Consider Paul Krugman, writing breathlessly in the New York Times about the "rising incidence of extreme events." He claims that global warming caused the current drought in America's Midwest, and that supposedly record-high corn prices could cause a global food crisis.

But the United Nations climate panel's latest assessment tells us precisely the opposite: For "North America, there is medium confidence that there has an overall slight tendency toward less dryness." Moreover, there is no way that Krugman could have identified this drought as being caused by global warming without a time machine: Climate models estimate that such detection will be possible by 2048, at the earliest.

And, fortunately, this year's drought appears unlikely to cause a food crisis, as global

rice and wheat supplies remain plentiful. Moreover, Krugman overlooks inflation: Prices have increased six-fold since 1969, so, while corn futures(期货) did set a record of about \$8 per bushel(蒲式耳) in late July, the inflation-adjusted price of corn was higher throughout most of the 1970s, reaching \$ 16 in 1974.

Finally, Krugman conveniently forgets that concerns about global warming are the main reason that corn prices have skyrocketed since 2005. Nowadays 40 percent of corn grown in the United States is used to produce ethanol(乙醇), which does absolutely nothing for the climate, but certainly distorts the price of corn- at the expense of many of the world's poorest people.

Bill McKibben similarly worries in The Guardian about the Midwest drought and corn prices. He confidently tells us that raging wildfires from New Mexico and Colorado to Siberia are "exactly" what the early stages of global warming look like.

In fact, the latest overview of global wildfire incidence suggests that fire intensity has declined over the past 70 years and is now close to its preindustrial level.

When well-meaning campaigners want us to pay attention to global warming, they often end up pitching beyond the facts. And, while this may seem justified by a noble goal, such "policy by panic" tactics rarely work, and often backfire.

Remember how, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Al Gore claimed that we were in store for ever more destructive hurricanes? Since then, hurricane incidence has dropped off the charts. Exaggerated claims merely fuel public distrust and disengagement.

That is unfortunate, because global warming is a real problem, and we do need to address it.

57. In what way do the media benefit from extreme weather?

- A) They can attract people's attention to their reports.
- B) They can choose from a greater variety of topics.
- C) They can make themselves better known.
- D) They can give voice to different views.

58. What is the author's comment on Krugman's claim about the current drought in America's Midwest?

- A) A time machine is needed to testify to its truth.
- B) It is based on an erroneous climate model.
- C) It will eventually get proof in 2048.
- D) There is no way to prove its validity.

59. What is the chief reason for the rise in corn prices according to the author?

- A) Demand for food has been rising in the developing countries.
- B) A considerable portion of corn is used to produce green fuel.
- C) Climate change has caused corn yields to drop markedly.
- D) Inflation rates have been skyrocketing since the 1970s.

60. What does the author say about global wildfire incidence over the past 70 years?

- A) It has got worse with the rise in extreme weathers.
- B) It signals the early stages of global warming.
- C) It has dropped greatly.
- D) It is related to drought.

61. What does the author think of the exaggerated claims in the media about global warming?

- A) They are strategies to raise public awareness.
- B) They do a disservice to addressing the problem.
- C) They aggravate public distrust about science.
- D) They create confusion about climate change.

答案

2006 年 12 月

52-56 BDADB 57-61 BCDAA

2007 年 6 月

52-56 BDADC 57-61 BBDAC

2007 年 12 月

52-56 CADBA 57-61 CCBCD

2008 年 6 月

52-56 BCDCA 57-61 DACBC

2008 年 12 月

52-56 BDCAD 57-61 ABDCB

2009 年 6 月

52-56 BDBAC 57-61 CDADB

2009 年 12 月

52-56 CDDBA 57-61 CACBA

2010 年 6 月

52-56 ADBBD 57-61 ACDCD

2010 年 12 月

52-56 ADCAC 57-61 DBDDB

2011 年 6 月

52-56 DBCDC 57-61 ABCCD

2011 年 12 月

52-56 DACBC 57-61 CCDBC

2012 年 6 月

52-56 ADCCD 57-61 DDDCD

2012 年 12 月

第一套

52-56 DBCBD 57-61 AADCA

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2013 年 6 月

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52-56 ADBCB 57-61 ABDDC

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